FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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VOP CRITICIZES ISRAELI REPLY TO U.S. QUESTIONS

JN201929Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1720 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Zionist government's reply to the U.S. questions was disappointing to the hopes of prosettlement Arabs headed by As-Sadat, because this reply was woven with Begin's needle, as they say. Begin has not provided any opportunity to play on the contradictions in his government, which is completely committed and which is now in better health than before. Betting on Weizman has likewise completely fallen down, as has betting on dividing the Zionist leaders into hawks and doves.

The Zionist government's reply to the question which political observers considered embarassing, that is, the future of the West Bank, was in harmony with what Begin has often stated: refusing to return the situation in the region to what it was before 5 June 1967 and holding onto Judaea and Samaria as regions essential to the State of Israel--a state which will never return to the siege it experienced before the June 1967 war.

In fact, what gave Begin the right to answer with such intransigence and disregard of the simplest values the Arabs have defended throughout 30 years is As-Sadat's insistence on continuing his initiative. There is also the fact that the imperialist circles were aware of the state of affairs of As-Sadat's rule and how following his recent measures As-Sadat became a martial-law ruler. There is also these circles' awareness that a man like As-Sadat will never again support war, because preparing for war with Israel requires striking at the class which inherited Egypt after his recent economic measures. This cannot be achieved under policies which are open economically and closed politically, policies which are even hostile to all liberation movements in the world.

That As-Sadat will be dragged to a unilateral reconciliation has now become very obvious after the Israeli reply to the U.S. questions. Ever since the first moment of the initiative, he has been a Zionist target because taking Egypt out of the circle of struggle means in itself an achievement for Israel's ambitions of continuing to base its state on an expansionist and racist foundation with the desire to get rid of the Palestinian people.

The Zionist government's replies on the future of the West Bank mean among other things that the revolution and its masses should once again be ready to prove that the Palestinian gun is stronger than questions and replies because American imperialism will never be a friend of the Palestinian people. Therefore, this imperialism has to assume responsibility for Begin's intransigence and his disregard for our right to self-determination.

VOP COMMENTS ON AS SADAT'S SPEECH TO ASU

JN201810Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1635 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[News analysis]

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has addressed an extraordinary meeting of the ASU Central Committee. It was supposed that As-Sadat would announce a specific Egyptian stand toward the recent decisions of the Zionist government regarding the future of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but he preferred to resort to generalization without offering anything specific. This is possibly owing to two main factors:

1. There was contact with the Americans before he delivered the speech so that the Egyptian president was persuaded to wait before defining any final stand, especially since a senior U.S. official is to visit the Middle East.

2. As-Sadat was taken by surprise to a certain extent by the Zionist stand and does not have any strong reply to this stand. If he had done so, he would have seemed to be announcing the failure of his initiative himself. This is something which should not be expected from As-Sadat--at least within a short period of time.

Those who listened to the speech noticed that As-Sadat invented several topics to fill up his speech in such a way that he seemed incoherent. What is more, he seemed repetitive regarding the topics he tackled. Nearly all these topics are domestic ones which he has talked about often and taken measures toward long ago. Although As-Sadat decorated his speech by reaffirming what he described as his government's commitment to liberate the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's rights, he made no proposals of any value--not on the level of resuming negotiations with the enemy nor on the level of resorting to new relations or alliances. He left the doors open for surprises.

Political observers unanimously agree that As-Sadat did not say what he had to say. In any event this means that the man is in such a very shaky and weak position that he cannot propose any alternative for his unsuccessful initiative, although the recent Zionist stand is more than enough for As-Sadat to face the facts as they are and announce that his initiative has arrived at an impasse.

Anyhow, As-Sadat seems to be still hanging onto the American spider's web to which he has tied his destiny. We do not know exactly how long he will keep hanging on this web, especially since the facts created by events after the initiative affirm for certain that the United States does not allow itself even the slightest disagreement with Israel. Consequently, pinning hopes on U.S. plans and efforts to be exerted against Israel has become sheer delusion and sick imagination.

PLO'S KAMAL ON ANKARA OFFICE, CYPRUS STANCE

TA161752Y Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 16 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The deputy chief of the PLO Political Department, Sa'id Kamal, has said that the PLO is waiting to open its bureau in Ankara in accordance with the agreement reached last year.

In a statement he issued in Cairo today, Kamal said that the report which appeared in the Greek Cypriot press on 18 May on a statement issued by the PLO bureau in the Greek Cypriot region was hostile and did not reflect the views of the PLO. Kamal pointed out that the relations between the PLO and Turkey were friendly and brotherly.

On the organization's views on the Cyprus problem, Kamal said: The PLO believes that the two communities should conduct negotiations for the establishment of a system based on Cyprus' independence, territorial integrity, nonalinement and the equal partnership of the two communities, as envisaged by the agreement reached between the late Archbishop Makarios and President Denktas on 12 February 1977.

TWO PALESTINIANS EXECUTED FOR 'HEINOUS ACTS'

JN191711Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Text] 'Ali Ahmad Salim and Mahmud 'Isa Du'aydis, two criminals of Palestinian nationality, were executed by firing squad this morning after they had been convicted by a military court of the revolution of committing heinous acts against the citizens, their sacred rights and security, and of demanding protection money under the name of the revolution and using their weapons to offend the Palestinian revolution and people.

Fatah Official Comments

JN202024Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 June--Muhammad Dawud 'Awdah, alias Abu Dawud, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, has described the two Palestinians, whose execution was announced yesterday by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, as struggling heroes known to all the people of Tal az-Za'tar. In a statement issued today Abu Dawud said that 'Ali Salim, alias Abu Ahmad, and Mahmud 'Isa, alias Abu 'Imad [names as received], had been brave members in the Fatah movement since 1967. They fought in the Western sector [presumably in Lebanon] after the fall of Tal az-Za'tar and remained true to the principles of the Palestinian revolution and to the continued struggle [words indistinct] to the end.

Abu Dawud said that their execution after a show trial is a serious political sign which causes alarm among the fighters who might be slandered to justify their execution. [words indistinct] Their execution is connected with the bases which were attacked on 17 April. Fifteen of our fighters are still in custody, Abu Dawud added. Abu Dawud said that it is well known that the PLO leadership has not taken to task those who have been dealing with the enemy, those who call for capitulation and the killers [words indistinct]. In conclusion, Abu Dawud said that such acts aggravate the inter-Palestinian fighting, cause alarm and give the enemy forces more chances to strike at the revolution. Abu Dawud also distributed a short biography of the two fighters.

'OPEN' LIBYAN AID TO PALESTINIANS REPORTED

NC150910Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0827 GMT 15 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 15 June--Quoting Palestinian sources in Beirut, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today reports that at a meeting held the day before yesterday, Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi offered open financial aid to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and to Palestinian organizations leaders Nayif Hawatimah and Ahmad Jibril. The initial sum of the aid will be $40 million and is earmarked for financing the plan for armed Palestinian action within the occupied territories. The paper says that the Libyan offer includes a promise to finance a new arms deal with the GDR. The deal includes heavy arms, in addition to the weapons for fedayeen operations. The paper notes that the Mehulla fedayeen operation, which was carried out this week by the "Abu 'Ali Iyad" group, was carried out across the Jordan River, adding that this is the first time since 1971 that such an operation has been carried out across the Jordanian-Israeli confrontation line. The paper explains that this operation will mark the beginning of similar operations, tending to lay the groundwork for a new political and military state of affairs in the atmosphere of the confrontation.

BAHRAIN

GUINEAN PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE ARRIVES IN MANAMA

JN201547Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1505 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 20 June--Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure arrived here this evening from Doha on a 2-day official visit to the state of Bahrain as part of his tour of some Arab states. He was received by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; ministers; senior officials; and members of the diplomatic corps in Bahrain.

During the visit, talks are expected to be held between the Bahraini and Guinean sides on bilateral relations and ways to promote them in various fields, especially the economic field. Talks are also expected to be held on current Arab, African and international issues.

President Ahmed Sekou Toure is accompanied by a large delegation, including Prime Minister Louis Lansana Beavogui and senior Guinean officials.

OMAN

NEW AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS, TRANSFERS ANNOUNCED

NC210620Y Cairo ONA in Arabic 2305 GMT 20 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Muscat, 20 June--The following ambassadorial appointments and transfers were included in decrees issued by his majesty the sultan yesterday.

1. Al Sa'id Shabib bin Taymur, Omani ambassador to Morocco, has been appointed nonresident ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

2. Ahmad ibn Muhammad al-Jamali, Omani ambassador to Jordan, has been appointed ambassador in Rome, the capital of Italy. He succeeds Nazar [name as published] Muhammad 'Ali who has been appointed ambassador to Jordan.

3. 'Abdallah 'Ali Najjar, who was recently promoted to the rank of minister in the Foreign Ministry, has been appointed ambassador in Doha, the capital of Qatar. He succeeds Ahmad Muhammad Al-Nabhani who has been recalled to the Foreign Ministry.

4. Minister Mukhtar Muhammad Zawawi has been appointed ambassador in Vienna, the capital of Austria.

5. Counselor Ghalib 'Abdallah has been appointed ambassador in Tunis. He succeeds Shaykh Muhammad Hamid al-Harithi.

6. Former Counselor 'Abdallah Sayyid has been appointed ambassador in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

QATAR

QATAR, GUINEA ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT FOLLOWING TALKS

JN201948Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1717 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text of Qatari-Guinean joint statement issued on 20 June following Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure's 19-20 June visit to Qatar]

[Text] At the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, His Excellency President Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the Republic of Guinea, and a delegation accompanying him paid an official visit to Qatar 19-20 June 1978.

His highness accorded his excellency an official and popular welcome which expressed the bonds of close friendship which link Qatar and Guinea. In an atmosphere pervaded with a spirit of sincere friendsnip and mutual trust, the two leaders held talks dealing with bilateral relations, Arab-African cooperation and current international issues, particularly developments in the Middle East.

In the field of bilateral relations, the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the continuing development of better relations between the two countries and in the interests of the two peoples. They affirmed their determination to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The two leaders reaffirmed their total support for the resolutions of the Arab-African summit conference regarding the strengthening of the bonds of solidarity between Arab and African countries. They also affirmed their total support for the African liberation movements and denounced the policy of racial discrimination. They pledged to back the struggle of African peoples to put an end to all foreign influence and to entrench their independence and sovereignty.

The two heads of state noted their dissatisfaction with the existence of foreign military bases and armed forces in Africa. They called for the evacuation of these forces so that security, peace and stability can be consolidated in Africa and so that African states can have the chance to concentrate their efforts and devote their resources to bringing about social and economic development without any foreign intervention.

The two leaders reaffirmed their belief in the principles of the UN Charter. They reaffirmed their complete determination to strengthen the United Nations and its organizations and efforts to safeguard world peace and establish a just international economic system which will guarantee the sovereignty of states over their natural resources and achieve a balance in their economic relations through equal participation in the just regulation of these relations.

The two heads of state expressed total satisfaction with the spirit of cooperation in relations among Islamic peoples for their present and future welfare.

The viewpoints of the two leaders were identical on the need for Israel to withdraw from all territories--including Jerusalem--occupied in the 1967 war and for the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate national rights, above all their inalienable right to return to their homeland and to establish their independent state on their land.

Both leaders noted that Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories, its persistence in making false allegations and its adoption of hostile positions which are in violation of principles of international law and the UN Charter and resolutions will hinder efforts to achieve the international community's aspirations for a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement of the present struggle in the area. They also noted that the above will threaten the area's security and stability and expose world peace to the greatest of dangers.

The leaders of the two countries expressed satisfaction with the visit of President Sekou Toure which gave both leaders the opportunity to exchange viewpoints. They also expressed satisfaction with the results of the visit. Both leaders agreed on the importance of continuing to hold meetings between them and between officials of their countries so as to consult on the best means of strengthening cooperation between their countries and achieving their peoples' aspirations for progress, affluence and prosperity.

The two leaders also discussed the means for cooperation in the economic sphere and the possibility of the State of Qatar participating in Guinean development projects. His highness the amir expressed his interest in this subject and his desire for the appropriate authorities of both sides to undertake discussions on the various aspects of this subject.

The Guinean guest expressed his great appreciation of the huge achievements realized by Qatar in all spheres thanks to the directives and wise leadership of his highness the amir. The Guinean president congratulated his highness for these achievements.

His highness the amir praised the huge efforts exerted by President Sekou Toure to achieve comprehensive progress in the friendly Guinean republic and to spread Islam in Guinea and Africa.

His Excellency President Sekou Toure expressed his thanks to his highness the amir and to the Qatari people and government for the great hospitality accorded him during his visit to Qatar.

His excellency the Guinean president extended an invitation to his brother his highness the amir of Qatar to visit Guinea. His highness accepted the invitation with thanks and promised to make the visit at the first possible opportunity.

UAE

FOREIGN MINISTER AS-SUWAYDI RETURNS FROM KHARTOUM

JN201857Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 20 June--Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi and the delegation accompanying him returned to the UAE from Khartoum this evening after participating in the meetings of the Arab Solidarity Committee which were held in the Sudanese capital on Saturday.

PDRY DELEGATION VISITS, HOLDS TALKS

JN191427Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1405 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 June--UAE Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan met here today with a Southern Yemeni [PDRY] delegation led by Muhammad 'Abduh (Shatfa), PDRY charge d'affaires in Kuwait. The delegation is currently on a visit to the UAE.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries and ways to follow up the implementation of cooperation accords concluded between the two countries.

The Southern Yemeni delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi the day before yesterday on a visit to the UAE lasting several days.

MILITARY INDUSTRIES ORGANIZATION CHAIRMAN ARRIVES

JN181755Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1750 GMT 18 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 June--Dr Ashraf Marwan, chairman of the board of directors of the Arab Military Industries Organization, arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Riyadh on an official mission that will last 1 day. Dr Marwan will deliver an oral message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat.

Meets With Officials

JN190953Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0925 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 June--Shaykh Faysal al-Qasimi, member of the board of directors of the Arab Military Industries Organization, met here today with Dr Ashraf Marwan, chairman of the board of directors, who is now visiting the UAE.

During the meeting, which was attended by Maj Gen 'Awwad al-Khalidi, the chief of the general staff of the UAE Armed Forces, the discussion dealt with a number of topics which pertain to the nature of the organization and its future plans.

Dr Marwan is currently visiting a number of member states of the organization, which include Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE.

Departs Following Visit

JN191819Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 June--Dr Ashraf Marwan, chairman of the Arab Military Industries Organization, left the UAE for Doha today following a 1-day visit.

Last night Dr Marwan conveyed an oral message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat dealing with developments in the Arab area and relations between the two fraternal countries. His highness Shaykh Zayid asked him to deliver an oral message in reply to President Anwar as-Sadat's message.

PDRY

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM CUBA, ARAB COUNTRIES

LD172116Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Muhammad Salih Muti', PDRY minister of foreign affairs, returned home this morning from visits to Cuba and a number of Arab countries, during which he held consultations on the current Arab situation, the situation in Africa and relations between the countries visited and the PDRY. Earlier, the foreign minister attended part of the UN General Assembly conference on disarmament.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT ADDRESSES ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE

NC201120Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0948 GMT 20 Jun 78 NC

[Speech by President Anwar as-Sadat to the ASU Central Committee on 20 June--live]

[Text] In the n me of God, brother and sister members of the Central Committee: In these historic moments we are waging enormous, parallel battles--parallel in that they all are taking place at the same time and we cannot neglect or postpone any one of them until the others have been accomplished. This is because the volume of work for the reconstruction process does not at all permit us to postpone until tomorrow what we can do today, especially since we have lagged behind for such a long time.

It has been the custom of the ASU Central Committee to meet once a year. This was agreed upon when this committee was formed. We were supposed to meet on the anniversary of the 23 July Revolution so I could give you a report on what has been accomplished in the past year and what we are planning for the future and for the next stage.

However, I wanted to meet with you today in order to put before you a position on which we must take the necessary decision together. I wanted to put the picture before you to discuss it so that when we meet on the usual annual date, the night of 22-23 July, God willing, we will be able to see the next stage.

I did not at all want to take the decision by myself, because I want you and all the people to participate in taking this decision. Thank God, this committee, as I told you last year, represents the Egyptian family in the most splendid manner. It includes all the members of the People's Assembly who have been elected freely and directly by the popular base--everyone, enemies and friends, testified to the magnificence, correctness, and soundness of the campaign for the election of the People's Assembly. The committee also includes all the representatives of workers and professional trade unions and all branches of activity in Egypt. It truly is an assembly of the Egyptian family, a consultative assembly, an assembly in which we all sit down to review all the developments in the country and to participate in making decisions.

You know that I have always accustomed you to my putting before you all the facts sincerely and faithfully. Today I say that we need to pause for a while to contemplate the degree which our democratic experiment has reached, particularly after the referendum which took place and after the people expressed themselves in a clear and definite manner.

I met with the People's Assembly on 14 May, which is the day the People's Assembly made its initiative and staged, as I said in the assembly, a complete revolution complementing the 15 May Revolution by dismissing its speaker and more than 15 members who represented the centers of power. The assembly itself dismissed them. I did not ask that. You heard me saying that I was surprised. I was then working on the government reshuffle on Friday, 14 May. You heard me saying that I was in fact surprised by the People's Assembly making the initiative and adopting its decision to dismiss all centers of power who occupied major posts or were members of the People's Assembly.

You recall the events of the May revolution or the day before that, on 13 May, when I dismissed the then minister of the interior; he was representing the leadership of the centers of power.

When I dismissed him, you recall that minutes before 2300 on 13 May, I received a letter containing the resignation of members of the centers of power. These were occupying at the time, in addition to the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of War, the Information Ministry and the Ministry of Presidential Affairs. These were joined by the speaker of the People's Assembly and members of the ASU Central Committee at that time. They planned that their resignation would reach me at 2300 after they arrived at that decision so that it would be broadcast over the radio. The resignation was actually broadcast, and the minister of information at that time, who joined them, stayed in the Ministry of Information until the resignation was broadcast at 2300, after which he left. What was the purpose of all this? The purpose of this collective resignation was to create the so-called constitutional collapse, that is, to surprise the country on the morning of 14 May.

The ministers, together with the speaker of the People's Assembly, the ASU secretary and members of the ASO Central Committee, had thought that their resignation would surprise the people and show them that the regime had collapsed or that the so-called constitutional collapse had taken place.

I was really surprised because when I received the resignation and I was told that it was going to be announced and, in fact, it was announced on the radio at 2300, I contacted the office and asked the people there to inform the radio to announce in the same newscast that I had accepted their resignations.

By 14 May the constitutional collapse, which was supposed to take place according to their plans, did not take place. On the contrary, as I told you, the People's Assembly carried out a complete revolution and dismissed all the members of the power centers from its membership, including the speaker and his two deputies. This was the first course in the 15 May 1971 Revolution, which opened the way to a complete purging of the country of the power centers and then began purging political life in full on the basis of the sovereignty of the law and the permanent constitution. As you know, there were plans to announce the permanent constitution after the elimination of the effects of the aggression, as stipulated in the 30 March statement. However, the 15 May Revolution was an opportunity to reorganize our affairs and restore to the people their full right to freedom, democracy and dignity. For this reason, as you know, all the detention camps have been closed since May 1971 up to today. There are no detainees or political detainees in Egypt. The sovereignty of the law was maintained with the proclamation of the permanent constitution for the first time since the outbreak of the 23 July Revolution--that is to say, about 18 and a half years after the revolution.

After the proclamation of the permanent constitution, democratic practice continued; the ASU was reconstituted and a new People's Assembly was elected. We proceeded on our way. As I told you, we must wage our battles simultaneously because we cannot neglect the battle of liberation, for example, and concentrate only on the battle of reconstruction, and we cannot neglect the battle of reconstruction because we are busy with liberation.

Of course, we all knew the slogans which were raised by the power centers and those who wanted to impose guardianship and totalitarian rule on the people under the slogan "No Voice Rises Above the Voice of the Battle." This slogan is still being used by many Arab states around us in order to maintain a totalitarian and oppressive regime over our peoples.

We do indeed know that no voice should rise above the voice of the battle. However, by the same token, we know that when no voice must rise above the voice of the battle, no voice, whatever it may be, must try to impose guardianship, will, autocratic rule or dictatorship on the people. We waged our battles simultaneously.

As you will remember, all detention camps were closed in 1971. The permanent constitution was proclaimed, providing full liberties. The permanent constitution was debated by the people from Aswan to Alexandria and then was put up for a public referendum for approval. This constitution is based on our will as a people and comes from nobody else.

Then came the year 1972, in which, as you will remember, things happened between us and the Soviet Union and in which I made the decision to expel the Soviet experts. I informed the ASU Central Committee about this decision here in this hall in July 1972. You also know the despicable political acts which took place then and which were committed by elements inside the country. These elements tried to arouse or use students to cause confusion and achieve what the power centers failed to achieve--the collapse of the regime or the collapse of the constitution--to create a vacuum to be filled by all those who want authority and guardianship over the country.

I tolerated these despicable acts. You all remember when these elements occupied the hall of the Higher Universities Council. The color of these elements is known, because as you know and as it was known, they were Marxists who imagined that by occupying the hall of the Higher Universities Council and by barricading themselves in it for 7 days, the whole world would collapse and they would be able to form what they then called the Higher Students Committee. This, they imagined, would be the spark to begin forming communes in all the quarters of Cairo, and then in all Egypt, and then the communist regime would be established in Egypt.

You know that I used wisdom and patience. Although these elements and their inclinations were known to me and although their vileness was unlimited, I had confidence and still have confidence that the principal base of our students and people is 100 percent sound, apart from those elements whose number and ability is insignificant so far.

What happened--the attempt to cause democratic collapse this time--was repeated immediately after the referendum. Why did the referendum take place? You have heard me speak about this in the People's Assembly. Before I turned to the people, I came to the People's Assembly to warn that the exercise of democracy was being misused and that this might lead us and the country into a situation in which the undermining of democracy might become something basic and essential. This is something that I do not accept or approve of at all.

What had happened was not the fault of democracy or the multiplicity of parties but was basically the fault of those who tried to take advantage of the democratic atmosphere and freedom in order to impose their ambition and trusteeship on the country.

Immediately after the October 1973 battle, and as I had promised you, we completed our democratic process by granting freedom to the press in 1974. Afterward I submitted the developing paper as a way of implementing the sixth principle of the 23 July Revolution, calling for the establishment of a sound democratic government. This sixth principle of the 23 July Revolution had not yet been implemented in the way the people had wanted.

Several efforts were made and several transgressions occurred. However, I remained faithful to my promise to you that we would implement the sixth principle of the 23 July Revolution, which is the establishment of a sound democratic life in the true sense of the word.

I submitted the developing paper, which was discussed in this hall. A political action committee was then formed and it presented us with its report. We agreed then on the formation of three platforms. The 5 years--or the legislative term of the People's Assembly elected in 1971 after the corrective revolution--then ended. It was the first People's Assembly to complete its full term. The platforms were formed. At the end of the legislative term, which consisted of five sessions for the 1971 People's Assembly, we began the elections in September 1976 in accordance with the constitution, the supremacy of the law and the state of instutions, which we have adopted.

When the three platforms competed in the election campaign, I was surprised that they conducted this campaign as if they were true parties. I did not object. In my speech opening the People's Assembly in November 1971, I declared that the platforms acted as if they were real parties. Why then should we delay the formation of parties? Let these platforms start working as parties, as they did during the election campaign. Let the People's Assembly draw up a law organizing the formation of parties.

The parties, in fact, started operating before this law was passed. They started operating on the day the People's Assembly was opened, in November 1976.

This law was issued later. It approved the three existing parties which the developing paper deduced should be formed. The developing paper reached the conclusion that any political action in the world does not consist of more than three wings: right, left and center. In the whole world and in the most democratic countries political action does not consist of more than these three wings.

The three wings or the three platforms entered the elections battle. As I have told you, on the day the People's Assembly was opened in 1976, they became parties. The parties law confirmed this and said that these three parties have emerged: the rightist party, under the name of the Socialist Liberals; the center party, under the name of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt; and the leftist party, under the name of the Unionist Grouping. The experiment continued.

In order for the formation of parties to be taken seriously, the law, as you are aware, stipulates that during the legislative period of the People's Assembly--that is, the five-session period, of which two sessions have now ended and three sessions remain, God willing, for the assembly to complete its constitutional term of office--the law stipulates that from now and until the end of the legislative period, whoever wants to establish a party must have the support of 20 deputies so that the matter may be a serious affair, instead of breaking up national unity. This stipulation comes within other stipulations that the principles [of the parties] must be specific and clear and not decided upon [later] by the organizations. The law promulgated by the People's Assembly has regulated all this.

You remember that during the debate on the parties law--we must mention this also--the entire opposition withdrew except the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt. The Arab Socialist Party of Egypt approved the law on the establishment of parties.

Later on, a new party was formed under the name of the New Al-Wafd Party, after it had met the conditions stipulated in the law regarding its program and its number of deputies. Before the emergence of this party, you remember that I was on my usual visit to the canal in June last summer. I always visit the canal in June in order to celebrate 5 June, which we have transformed from a day of defeat and sorrows into a day of victory. You remember that when I visit the canal area I meet with the armed forces. At that time, I met, as I did this month, with the 2d and 3d armies and then with the air forces, the shock forces, the paratroopers and the air defense forces. It is a yearly occasion for me to meet with them. You remember that last year, in a speech to the 3d Army, I addressed a warning. You heard me this year address the army. I read the text of what I had said in a speech I delivered on the same day last year--6 June 1977--in which I warned against turning back in any form and said that the people, after their 23 July 1952 Revolution, will not allow conditions to return to what they were before.

When the parties law was issued and was sent to me to sign, I asked one question. As you know, according to the constitution, when a law is passed by the People's Assembly, it is sent to me. I can either sign the law or object to it within 30 days, as stipulated by the constitution. When the law was sent to me for signature, I asked: Is there political isolation in it? I read the law and discovered that there was no political isolation. I found, however, that the law was clear in stating that the parties which existed before 23 July 1952 and which represented and still represent a sad period in our life--a period of corruption, a period of distateful alliance between the king, the English and feudalism as represented in big landlords in Egypt who had the sole right and divine right they created for themselves to rule Egypt, this hated period with everything and everyone in it--have become a part of history. The parties law stipulated that these parties cannot be revived. It seems that the party of Egypt was sensitive, because when the opposition withdrew, it wanted--and as I learned later, the law excluded not only the pre-23 July parties but also those responsible for them--to show those who withdrew that the law is not aimed specifically against anyone but that the question is that of a period which has ended, and we must not go back to it. Therefore, they removed from the law the exclusion of people but kept the exclusion of parties--that is to say, the pre-23 July Revolution cannot be revived in any way. They kept this provision in the law but removed the exclusion of persons responsible for the political life or those who took part in it prior to 23 July.

I fell into the same thing the party of Egypt fell into--sensitivity. When the law was sent to me, I asked: Is there political isolation? I read the law and found out that there was no political isolation, so I immediately signed the law. I was sensitive, like the party of Egypt, because there was nothing premediated against anyone. There was no apprehension or anything like that of anyone. We were preparing things for the future. Democratic practice continued. Those who withdrew in protest against the law began to apply it. The New Al-Wafd Party came into existence on the basis of this law. Despite my warning, my remarks were not understood. No, I want to say that my remarks were very clear. In my speech to the 3d Army about a week ago, I read what I said a year ago, in June 1977. But there are ambitions, whims, rancor and many other things.

They ignored all this talk and began to form the New Al-Wafd Party. They sent their application papers to ASU Central Committee Secretary General Dr Mustafa Khalil, as stipulated in the law.

They fulfilled all the conditions required for the formation of the party in accordance with the parties law, which they had rejected before and which they had described as restrictive and undemocratic.

When they fulfilled these conditions, Dr Mustafa Khalil adopted the necessary measures, as stipulated in the parties law. Under the parties law, the leader of every party formed must join the ASU Central Committee--the family council. Here lay the problem. When Dr Mustafa Khalil notified me that he was about to send a decision admitting the leader of the New Al-Wafd Party to the Central Committee in implementation of the law, I fell into a dilemma.

A year before, I drew attention to the fact that I had an objection to the leader of the New Al-Wafd Party, not a personal objection but an objective one, which dates back 25 years, since the establishment of the 23 July Revolution. You all know that I have the honor to be the one who announced the outbreak of the revolution on the morning of 23 July.

When, after the outbreak of the revolution, we asked the parties to purge themselves in order to take over power, I, my colleagues in the Revolution Command Council and the broad base of the people had not doubted that the first one to be purged from the Al-Wafd Party must be the one who wanted to resurrect the Al-Wafd Party.

I did not want to oppose the implementation of the parties law, which was passed by the People's Assembly and which was drafted by the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt. The party was sensitive about this and I was also sensitive about it. When the decision came to me, I had an objection, and this objection is not something new but dates back 25 years. I have been engaged in politics for 35 years. Not only I, but all those who lived through that era, knew who the politicians were who were corrupting political life in Egypt.

It was obvious that if I did not sign the law admitting the elected leader of the New Al-Wafd Party to the Central Committee, I would be violating the parties law. You know that we must not issue a law in order to violate it, because, as I have promised you, the supremacy of the law will remain above everything in our state.

Therefore, it was illogical to violate the law. As I have told you, if I objected, my objection would have been interpreted as an objection to the formation of a new party in accordance with the new law which we had passed.

I have no objection to the formation of parties. A proof of this is that the law provides that for a party to be formed it must have 20 deputies in the People's Assembly. After this legislative term--after the coming three sessions which complete the constitutional office of the People's Assembly--any person will be able to form a party. I have no objection to this.

If I did not sign or comply with the law because I objected to the person of the elected leader of the party, the matter would be interpreted that I objected to the formation of the party and I would thus look as if I were striking at the democratic process which I am most eager to promote. I signed the decision for him to join the Central Committee and communicated the decision to him.

I said perhaps bygones will be bygones and we will start a new page, because there is no possibility of our people turning back at all--anyone who imagines anything to the contrary must be naive. No one must think of the conditions that existed before 23 July--the state of coercion, the British, feudalism and the 1 percent, who were big landlords and owned one-third of the agricultural land of Egypt, and the royal family, which owned the rest. No one should be so naive as to think that the people, in their broad base, will allow the return of these conditions in any form.

I signed the decision and said: Let us see how democracy is going to be in practice. The practice began in a manner worse than that which existed before 23 July. The prime minister and the cabinet were the target in an ingenuous operation to turn the country back to the pre-23 July conditions. An enormous doubt-casting campaign began, as I have said, the target of which was the prime minister, the cabinet and every achievement accomplished in the country. However, as for President as-Sadat, no. Since he is doing everything--this and that and so on and so forth--the target is the regime, not the prime minister and his ministers or the achievements. The target is the regime.

Then began an operation which I consider extremely serious. I am now meeting with you basically to put this operation before you so that we may make a decision on it with regard to the future. This operation is that of hatred and the attempt to stir up a bloody class struggle so that Egypt will continue to be threatened and be an unstable state in the eyes of the world, as the groups about which I will speak to you later on want it to be. The first group was the Al-Wafd Party. I discovered that the operation was one of settling accounts with the 23 July Revolution. [They were] casting doubt on everything. Doubt-casting is very easy. [They were] exploiting the sufferings of the people while they heard me say that we still have 2 and a half years to go until the end of 1980 to get out of the bottleneck. I have promised you, saying that every year will be better than the year before, God willing, but we cannot eliminate all the sufferings overnight. The sufferings were exploited in the ugliest manner. I had warned, even when the platforms emerged and not only when the parties were established, I had warned in a speech in March 1976 that we must not exploit the sufferings of the people because that is the easiest thing for anyone to do--let us not exploit the sufferings and let us all direct our attention to the size of the battles which we are fighting at the same time: the liberation battle; the reconstruction battle; the battle of the collapsing services in the country; the battle of attempting to correct the economic course, which has been wrecked. Five days before the October war, I informed the National Security Council, all of whose members are still living, that our economy was below zero.

We are waging all these battles at the same time: liberation; reconstruction; correction of the economic course; the services, which have reached a tragic state, really, and the people are suffering; the food problem, which was not taken into account in the past as our number is increasing by 1 million every year, with the result that we have reached the stage of having to import all of our food. When one has to buy his food or borrow to buy his food, he is heading for ruin, rapid ruin, whereas we are an agricultural state.

It is very easy to cast doubts. The New Al-Wafd Party started a doubts campaign worse than that which prevailed before the 1952 revolution. I lived through the two periods. It was the king or the British who frightened the parties in the past. They depended on the British against the king at times and sided with the king against the British at others. They cannot play such a role now.

It is very easy to cast doubts. They want to cast doubts on everything and destroy everything. The parties, particularly the New Al-Wafd, want to settle old accounts. Political life in Egypt collapsed before the 23 July Revolution because of the collapse of the Al-Wafd Party itself.

The Al-Wafd Party actually began an organized campaign claiming that democracy and freedom prevailed in Egypt before 23 July and that now there is only repression, dictatorship, terrorism and torture and everything else which we have heard.

This is indeed strange. The party claims that when the king, the parties which stood for feudalism and the British were in power, there was excellent and democratic rule and there were freedoms. For the first time, Egypt is now ruled by its sons and by the broad base representing the workers and peasants. The tripartite regime [king, parties and the British] which ruled Egypt in the past considered the workers and peasants as outcasts. If a ruler at that time wanted to curse a person, he would call him a peasant. These rulers are now being described as good people. Now that the workers and the peasants have attained their rights, now that a national regime has been established for the first time, and now that an Egyptian ruler is ruling Egypt for the first time in 2,000 years, the New Al-Wafd Party describes all this as dictatorship. This is strange. [applause] The issue is one of settling accounts and of an attempt to distort the facts of history. You heard me give an example at the People's Assembly. You heard me say that the common desire of those who are making these allegations now and are trying to act as leaders through the so-called New Al-Wafd was to win the favor of an official in the British Embassy who held the grade of secretary. He was neither minister plenipotentiary, charge d'affaires nor ambassador. He was an official with the title of secretary for Oriental affairs. He was a secretary at the British Embassy. All the leaders who held high positions, all the pashas and big landlords submitted to the will of this person. Even the British Embassy used him to frighten the king himself.

The 23 July Revolution brought a radical change. The British presence was over. I have told you this story before. Only 3 days after the 23 July Revolution broke out, the king responded to the ultimatum which I presented to him the morning of 26 July. By 1800 he had left the country. It was at 1200 the same day, on 26 July--you have heard me tell this story--that the British charge d'affaires, accompanied by the military attache, came to me in an imperial motorcade. He came to safeguard the rights of the Muhammad 'Ali family and to ask us to immediately declare a curfew to protect the lives of foreign nationals. You heard what I told him. It was from that time that Britain became aware that it had lost its place here. In 3 days the king and the British were finished. I understand that anyone seeking power today must have a history of struggle and of strongly expressing the desire of the people and the solidity, faith and power of Egypt. These people today claim that the situation under the tripartite rule of the king, the British and the feudalists was as sweet as honey and that the situation which followed the 23 July Revolution represented a loss. They say this without shame. My God, is this the application of democracy? We would be worse off than we were before 23 July if the situation had continued. It would mean returning the country to the past. When one of them delivers a speech he says that the 23 July Revolution was not a revolution but a coup. A coup? The revolution changed the history of this country and even the history of the whole Arab region. Then they say that it was a coup backed by the people. All those who lived through that period with us know that the people completely supported the revolution from the first moment they heard the revolution proclamation the morning of 23 July.

They also claim that the 23 July Revolution was a military coup, and hence the rights of the rulers against whom the military coup was staged must be restored, and the 23 July Revolution and the whole people must turn to them because they are the chosen class with a divine right to rule Egypt. They also say that the 23 July Revolution was a coup and that there was no feudalism in Egypt. This means not only that we are being asked to return to the political corruption which we eliminated 26 years ago, but it also means falsifying history. In whose interest is this? Is this what we want? Is this democracy? I am speaking here about the Al-Wafd Party.

I was astonished to see the democratic practice of the grouping party [Progressive Unionist Grouping]. I repeat that I am proud of what I said before; namely, that there is no power on earth which can subdue ideas. Every person is entitled to believe as he wishes. Therefore, from the first, as I said, we have recognized the leftwing. Its inception began with a wing, then a party which called itself the Progressive Unionist Grouping.

Communist activity was banned before and after the 23 July Revolution, at the time of 'Abd an-Nasir. As you all know, before 23 July [1952] we had the laws of Sidqi Pasha, An-Nahhas Pasha and all the others. After 23 July the communists were in Al-Wahat [presumably a detention camp] for 5 years. 'Abd an-Nasir put them there for 5 years until they dissolved themselves.

Well, when I assumed office I said no, I will not shackle the mind, because no power on earth can shackle the mind. Before the 23 July Revolution they imagined that by introducing certain laws they could shackle the mind. I say no. Every man is free to believe in what he likes. However, when a leftwing emerges it must be Egyptian. This means that its primary concern must be for the supreme interests of Egypt.

In the democratic experiment the Al-Wafd Party and the grouping party were wrong in that they forgot that partisanship is not the end, that the multiparty system is not the end, and that these are all means to serve Egypt's supreme interests in every domain, whether it is liberation, reconstruction, sound economy, foreign policy or promoting the people's prosperity. The aim is to serve the people of Egypt. Partisanship as such is not the end.

So what happened? It was almost a comedy in my opinion. The right and the left, that is, the extreme right and the extreme left--who cannot possible agree on anything--have found common ground in their search to undermine the regime by casting doubt on the officials from the prime minister down to the ministers and all that is being done. This is because they still have the old mentality which maintains that the target is the regime and that the end is partisanship not serving Egypt and the national cause. So they found common ground.

I noticed that our democratic experiment was being slowly drawn back to the pre-23 July era and that all that had been achieved was being ruined in settlement of old accounts and grudges. The grouping party, namely the left, instead of seizing the opportunity of being recognized for the first time and of being able to publish a newspaper without anyone's permission [sentence left incomplete]. In the past anyone who wanted to publish a newspaper had to obtain permission from the Publications Department and the interior minister and had a hard time doing this. The law that we have enacted as a state upholding the rule of the law stipulates that a recognized party may issue its own publication without prior permission from anyone.

This never happened before in Egypt's history except in the period of the supremacy of the law I am talking about--that is, after the promulgation of the parties law. This never happened in Egypt before. Records will testify to this.

The grouping, instead of seizing the opportunity of being recognized by changing its ideas, turned its newspaper into something like underground leaflets as in the past. Well, you did that when you were underground [addressing the grouping party], but since you have come out in the open and since you have been recognized, why do you have to have a secret leaflet?

Furthermore, there has regrettably been a horrifying and ugly campaign to arouse class struggle. You have seen the letter sent to me by the father of one of the Cyprus martyrs--the men of the shock troops martyred in Cyprus. Members of the grouping party held a press interview with him, in their style. Then they claimed that his relatives said so and so and that the father told them so and so, making it appear as they wanted it to appear, so they said: Well, why did the man die? The man or rather his father are asking, why did he die? The doubt campaign was such that the man concerned sent me a letter saying: Sorry, I did not say anything of the sort, and their facts are all lies.

The facts of the case are so and so. This was published. In the end he says: I am a simple peasant, but I want to tell you that I am ready to sacrifice my son and all my children for the sake of Egypt. I never said such words. [applause]

This is strange. Why is this? This is the mentality of bloody class struggle. It is like what Trotsky said: Hatred is the biggest tool of destruction. They tried to create hatred among classes by carrying out the incidents of 18 and 19 January. This is not all. They said: The 15 May Revolution is not a revolution--the 15 May Revolution which made it possible for them to become a recognized party for the first time in the history of Egypt. They said: No, no. This is not a revolution. As one of them said in Paris: The 15 May Revolution is just a suppressive movement. They use such terms as suppressive, liquidationist, imperialist and many, many more. They say that the 15 May Revolution, which gave them recognition and entity, was a suppressive revolution. The 15 May Revolution made it possible for a Marxist to stand up in this place, in the ASU Central Committee, for the first time in the history of Egypt, and say, "We the Marxists" and explain his viewpoint. As I said, we did not cut out his tongue or slit his throat as used to happen in the past. Why? Because this happened in the state of institutions and sovereignty of law which came about after the 15 May Revolution. Yet they say that the 15 May Revolution was a suppressive revolution. Is this the democratic course we want for Egypt? Sorry, no.

Let us talk about the national issue. I do not want their support for my initiative. I returned [from Jerusalem] and the whole Egyptian people, apart from these bubbles, expressed their sentiments, and then the whole world joined the Egyptian people. This is with the exception of one state, which has said no. I am talking about Moscow. Moscow says this is not a peace initiative. Moscow says this is an initiative that will cause the Arabs to lose all of their rights because As-Sadat is going to conclude a separate solution.

You heard me tell you that in 1972, before we waged the 1973 battle, I was in Moscow. Premier Kosygin himself contacted the Egyptian ambassador in Moscow. He told him: Ask President as-Sadat whether he would agree to bring Golda Meir to Tashkent for a meeting to discuss and finish the problem.

Well, had I agreed to sit with Golda Meir, the victorious, at that time while I was in a state of defeat, to sit with Golda Meir who was saying that, in order for us to reopen the canal, we must secure the permission of Israel because it shares half the canal with us since the Israelis sit on the eastern bank and therefore own half the canal waters and must receive half the royalties, and who was saying that there is nothing in history called Palestine. [incomplete sentence as heard] The Soviet Union wants me to sit with her while I am defeated. If I sat with her, the Soviet Union would have trumpeted the news to the whole world.

But I went [to Jerusalem] from a position of strength and victory. I went and the whole world was dazzled. I am proud to say that the whole world was dazzled by the support my people in Egypt gave me. I am proud of this. [applause]

Moscow imagines that I am doing this because of an agreement between myself and the Americans. This is why they have imposed an embargo on arms and spare parts to me since the October war. They imposed the embargo from the time Kissinger came here in November 1973 until today, so my weapons would become scrap metal.

When I did this, all the world backed the people of Egypt and supported their will. The entire world sided with us, and the entire outlook on the issue changed. Moscow was sad and it opposed the initiative because it had no role in it. Because of Moscow's opposition, the Egyptian left is also casting doubts on the initiative. The left is doing exactly what Moscow wants and even more. The Al-Wafd, the peak of the petrified reactionary right which wanted to take us back to the time of the secretary for Oriental affairs of the high commissioner, supported us and said that this initiative represents the will of the people. It was the left which opposed the initiative. It was the left which we have recognized and to which the 15 May Revolution accorded official recognition for the first time in the history of Egypt and allowed it to publish its paper. It would not have been possible in the past to acquire such recognition, not even after 100 years of effort. Is this a suppressive movement? The left alleges that the initiative has led to the loss of the Arab rights merely because Moscow is furious with it.

This made me look around to see how democracy is being practiced. Is this a proper way of practicing democracy? An extreme rightist wants to take us back to the era of corruption and to what used to happen in the state of the triumvirate [the king, parties and British]. The extreme left wants a bloody class struggle. It takes pride in the events of 18 and 19 January and considers them as an expression of the will of the people. Is the burning of the buses, looting of the supermarkets and burning of Cairo a popular uprising? Is this a way to practice democracy? This simply opened my eyes to the fact that the practice was wrong and that it was following a wrong path. I went back to the people. Despite the fact that the matter was very clear to every honest man, we followed the sound democratic path and went back to the people. We went back to the people and the people gave their opinion in the referendum. They gave their opinion as follows: First of all they said that anyone who does not believe in divine law or who adopts creeds which are against the divine law will not assume leading posts in the country which could influence public opinion. I am talking here mainly about the Marxists.

Secondly, they said that there can never be a return to the past--to the leadership of the era of the triumvirate of the king, the British and feudalism represented in the big landlords and the politicians at the time. These people still consider themselves as politicians but a politician knows that there are times when he must disappear from the scene. The party lusts, the hatred, the search for the limelight and glitter and the conceit brought them back to the scene. The people have said no to all of these leaderships.

Thirdly, the people said in the same vein that any of the centers of power which corrupted life after the 23 July Revolution or committed anything against the dignity of the Egyptian must also be expelled. I believe this is just because there are some who corrupted life before and after the 23 July Revolution. We have the courage to do so and to rectify matters. These people believe that they have escaped punishment. This is not so.

The fourth thing the people said is that the press is the property of the people. Here I must pause to ponder the matter with you. A strange thing emerged within the context of democratic practice. There was some kind of disavowal of all values or morals. I have told you what the reactionary right--the New Al-Wafd--and the left have done. Now let us see what they have done in the press.

Like any other country in the world, Egypt has foreign correspondents. We have a group of malevolent persons. These persons come from the right or the left or are opportunists or those who are trying to regain what they had lost during 'Abd an-Nasir's time. They thought that they could do something, that they could change the world. How? By taking advantage of democracy because democracy prevents the adoption of any measure against any person unless there are reasons which make the adoption of such measures necessary under the law, but not through martial law or extraordinary measures. They take advantage of this. They began by contacting the foreign journalists. As I told you, this thing started before the October battle when, as I have told you, I tolerated many abuses. These abuses began before the October war. They used the expressions I told you about: defeatism, liquidation and imperialism. They also said that As-Sadat was not going to fight. When the Soviet experts were expelled, it was said that As-Sadat had no intention of fighting, that without the Soviets we could not do anything, and that the weapons we had were gone and finished, and so on and so forth. There were also the attempts to stir up the students and attempts to commit sabotage and disturb the situation. I pointed all this out before October, even though I knew there were known, specific elements who were doing this. However, I said that there was general disruption and that I was more affected by the disruption than anyone else in the country because we had not yet taken our revenge against Israel. I used to pardon people. You remember that since July 1971 and despite all the abuses that took place in 1971, 1972 and 1973, I did not resort to a single extraordinary measure or open the detention camps. I did not do this even though they actually deserved to be isolated from our society, which was fighting ferocious battles, which was preparing for the battle and for liberation and which was rebuilding and rectifying the tragedy of the services and the collapse of many aspects of life.

These persons went to the foreign correspondents. They gave the correspondents a certain picture of Egypt; as you heard me say, in early 1973 the whole world was filled with the impression that Egypt was finished. That was at a time when we had the plan and were going ahead and preparing and our armed forces were beginning training in their tasks. It was said that Egypt was finished.

They made a foreign correspondent write three articles, as you heard me say, in a British newspaper, and then they referred him to the New York TIMES for which he wrote three more articles. This correspondent's relationship with these malevolent persons is known.

Some persons still believe that what is published abroad can affect us or frighten us here in Egypt. Among the stories of the glories of the past era of the old Al-Wafd--to which they wanted to take us back--is that Egypt could not issue a law which Britain did not want. After independence, An-Nahhas Pasha, may God have mercy on him, was a good man. He did not deserve the fate of having anyone recall his past by claiming to defend him, while actually doing more to harm Mustafa an-Nahhas than anyone else. May God have mercy upon him. An-Nahhas was prime minister in 1928, when there was a law called the Law on Meetings giving the people the freedom to meet. Britain said no. There is no such thing as a meetings law. That was during the time of the insolent people ['atawilah].

These are the people who want to rule Egypt now. One statement in the British House of Commons or a report about a British warship sailing from Malta to Alexandria--or rather only just beginning to move from Malta to Alexandria--was enough to make the king, the parties and the leaders rush to hide in their shells.

When An-Nahhas announced the meetings law in 1928, the British, who were against it, just said that they were sending a warship to Alexandria. So he immediately retracted and that was that, as the records testify. Such are the people who want to rule Egypt now, after the emergence of the 23 July generation and the October generation. An-Nahhas simply and completely retracted and a statement was issued--made to appear as if it came from An-Nahhas and not as an order from the British following the warship scare.

Why did such things happen in the past? Some people still believe that the outside world can influence Egypt. I am sorry. They imagined that I could not take any measures, so they began to exploit democracy in the ugliest manner, thinking that I would not take steps because the outside world might tell me that I am not democratic and thus influence me and that therefore I would get scared and say: No, I will retract. No.

One thing has attracted my attention. I am now talking about the press. As I have told you, I once complained about the Red journalists. They are the Marxists. I do not (?like) them. Why? Their inclinations are known and their talk from now until doomsday will be worth nothing. They are nothing, although they have a front in Iraq, another in Libya [applause], a third in Paris and a fourth in London. Furthermore, there is a front here, inside Egypt. They are in contact with foreign correspondents.

What happened in the preceding period, directly before my initiative? As I have said, the aim of the right and the left has been to attack the regime. They defamed the prime minister and the ministers and criticized all the achievements, and then they went running to these correspondents, saying that there was definite collapse. You may recall what was written abroad in the week before my initiative on 19 November 1977. At the behest of these people, the bubbles and the bitterness emerged. Then they formed parties. The grouping party would hold a press conference, and then the New Al-Wafd would, because there was freedom. The things that were written--nobody knew what I was going to do on 19 November--a week earlier the whole of the outside world was reading that Egypt was on the verge of complete economic, political and military collapse.

On 19 November I embarked on my initiative and the whole world was stunned, after it had been said that a military coup was going to occur any minute.

What was the aim of this portrayal? The aim was to give the impression that Egypt was unstable and that a military coup would take place any minute, as in the other countries around us. They do not know that we are 7,000 years old and that we have been a state and have had a government for 7,000 years, and that the people most worthy of democracy in this region--no, in the world--are the people of Egypt.

They are constantly seeking to stir up rumors. At a time when our affairs are beginning to take shape and the world is beginning to come to us, they spread rumors that a military coup will take place in Egypt, that the cabinet will be changed, that Egypt is heading here and there and that corruption prevails in government departments. By God, there is a million times more corruption in the states from which such statements come than in Egypt. What kind of corruption is there? Where unemployment exists there are weak persons and those who err.

We have proclaimed the supremacy of the law. Offenders will be referred to justice. There are no longer coverups or exceptions and nobody is above the law. This has been our course. What happened in the world then? Whenever outside investors come to Egypt and whenever the open-door policy succeeds and our economy is being strengthened--you have heard this was admitted in Paris last week, although our economic situation had been our major problem--they suggest to the world that Egypt is unstable, that a military coup will take place, that corruption prevails in the country and so forth. It is strange that this has been claimed by three sides: The New Al-Wafd, which has a suspect history; the leftwing, which has been solely concerned with destroying and striking the regime; and the opportunists, who lost the things they used to enjoy at the time of 'Abd an-Nasir and who have no way of returning again to rule this country. As I told you, there are fronts in Paris, London, Baghdad, Beirut and Libya. All these are worth nothing. They have no worth and do not affect the situation at all.

However, one must not boast of the fact that there is among us a person being paid 1,000 pounds a month to insult Egypt while enjoying the democratic life, protection, security and tranquillity in Egypt. Nobody will ever again threaten the people's security or tranquillity. If necessary, by God, I would enter any battle in order to safeguard security, tranquillity and democracy for the people. [applause] While enjoying all this, some writers--I am myself a writer--can write and destroy everything. When they appear before a judge nothing can be proved against them. This is a question of ethics and profession. A clever person can write in a way which would destroy everything but can appear before a judge and claim freedom of opinion in a democratic country. It is true that we are a democratic country. However, there has been an increase in meanness and baseness.

In the referendum, I asked the socialist public prosecutor to present the record of each of these persons before the people. The socialist prosecutor will conduct a political investigation because, as I told you, the political investigation will reveal things which might not be punishable under any law, but politically the record will be put before the people. They have alleged that this would create judicial duality and so forth. The socialist prosecutor has existed under the constitution for 8 years. When the post of socialist prosecutor was established in the constitution was it envisaged that this post would create judicial duality in 1978, 8 years after the constitution was proclaimed? Never.

The socialist prosecutor is for political investigation. He will bring the record of every person before the people. Why? Because they are misleading the people in a strange way. They speak of sufferings, and when we put their record before the people we see how they are living. They live better than any lord in the world. They earn high salaries while talking philosophically about the people's sufferings. How much taxes do these people pay? This had made me review the taxes law.

Political investigation is a must so that everyone's position, history, and conduct will be known and so that the people will be the judge. This is because we have a crisis of ethics as far as these people are concerned. There is a crisis of ethics. I say no. They imagine that such things are effective. A few days ago I received a report from our ambassador in London saying that two British Members of Parliament--who are our friends, friends of Egypt and also my own friends because they come and visit me. Please tell President as-Sadat that we fear that the measures and such things may change his image in the Western world, and so on and so forth.

As I have told you, as regards the attempts to plead or to create the fear here that I may not be able to move lest they say abroad that I am not democratic, what matters to me is primarily for my people to know whether I am democratic. Anything else does not matter much to me. [applause] As long as my people are satisfied I will continue with my line whatever happens and whatever is said, because ultimately only the truth will prevail.

The record of every one of these people must be submitted to the nation.

I have said all this to lead to one point which actually I began my speech with. Do you remember the centers of power who wanted to cause a constitutional collapse? I have told you about them. Well, the New Wafd Party, by dissolving itself, and the [Progressive National] Grouping Party, by freezing itself, have both tried to repeat the same story and cause a collapse of democracy. They wanted to give the impression that the experiment of democracy has failed.

Perhaps you heard last week, both before and after this meeting was announced, you heard that I was going to introduce custodianship and reopen the detention camps, that there would be no democracy and that I would return to the one-party system. Some said he will revive the ASU and so on and so forth. I have heard all this and I said fine, let the people hear and know, because I always warn against rumors. Such people can do nothing except cast doubt and spread rumors.

Everything they have said is untrue, absolutely. I have invited you to this meeting today to tell you that there is no collapse of democracy. The fact that the New Wafd Party has dissolved itself and the grouping has frozen its activities does not mean that there is a democratic collapse. Not at all. Democracy is fine here, and there will be no custodianship or sole party and there will be no cancellation of or undermining of democracy. Not at all. I am meeting with you today for an important reason.

I am here to tell you: Let us together lay down the controls of democratic conduct or democratic ethics for the coming phase, because what is past is past. It is fine and a blessing that the Wafd Party has dissolved itself, [applause] because there will be no turning back under any slogan and no exploitation of democracy under any slogan. The grouping has frozen itself. It is free to continue but let it be known--and I am saying it publicly now--that we will not allow the Marxist leaders to indulge in political activity by organizing the Egyptian left, whatever the circumstances. [applause]

There has been no such thing as a collapse of democracy or anything of the sort. So, go in peace, because we do not need the old faces, the Marxists or the non-Egyptian left. By taking this step they have really spared us the effort.

In my talk to you, after having clarified all this, I want to put one thing before you: In our next meeting, God willing, on 22 July, on the occasion of the 23 July anniversary, we will have concluded the discussions which will be held during the next month at the Central Committee and in the press. I ask all the organizations represented here to take part with us in how to draft the declaration of discipline and code of honor for sound democratic practices--a code of honor to abide by ethics, for those who lack ethics. Regrettably, we have persons who lack ethics.

The other thing to be agreed upon is the shape of the next phase. The parties law is in force and it stipulates the formation of parties. Any party which can comply with the provisions of the law may come forth after the end of the legislative session, God willing, when there will be no need for a party to have 20 members in the People's Assembly. However, as I told you, the matter is open. All that is required is that we draw up rules to follow and rules for what is shameful. We should point out that there is something called shame. We must say this to those persons who know no shame. [applause]

Simply, I propose that our objectives in the national struggle in the current phase are summed up in the liberation of land, getting rid of foreign domination, establishment of a modern state, preservation of national unity, social peace and Arab unity.

These are the goals of the current phase under the socialist democracy. God willing I will soon send you the book which the Egyptian universities joined me in writing about the socialist democracy. Dr Sufi, director of Cairo University, has formulated this theory in a book. This book will be sent to you within a week so that from now until 23 July you can read it and be prepared. If we require any addition, amendment or development of the theory we will also be ready on 23 July. Hence, we will not lose time as there is no reason for this or for delaying a thing which we must do. We have no time to lose as we want to complete our battles of liberation, reconstruction, social peace and national unity.

One thing remains, now that we have met and I have told you the reason for this meeting: a debate will begin on the rule of discipline and the code of honor, the code of ethics and shame under which democracy is practiced. This will naturally fall under social peace and national unity. The debate will also include our steps in the next phase and the consolidation of democracy in the next phase, because democracy belongs to all of us and no person can detract from it.

These controls should serve as a deterrent and a lesson to anyone who violates them, teaching him to return to ethics, his country Egypt and the great national cause, or else quit the political scene because hatred devours itself and can do nothing else.

On this occasion, I would like to speak briefly about the initiative. You heard me discuss the initiative in detail with the 2d Army. What is new is that Israel answered the United States yesteday or the day before yesterday. The United States had submitted two questions relating to the West Bank and Gaza sector. You heard me say and I reiterate that we will not discuss Sinai, because, exactly as I told them at the Knesset, Sinai is my land and there can be no discussion at all, not about one inch of Sinai.

Sinai is therefore not a subject of discussion at all. The entire process concerns the West Bank and Gaza sector. You know that I proposed recently that the West Bank be returned to King Husayn and that Gaza be returned to Egypt as was the position before 1967. I also proposed that we and Israel sit together afterwards in the West Bank and Gaza sector to study the security measures in the presence of Palestinian representatives. The two questions which the U.S. Government submitted to Israel are connected with the West Bank and Gaza sector and demand to know Israel's view about their future after the 5-year period, which is called a transition period between the date of signing the agreement on the West Bank and Gaza sector and their handover to King Husayn and Egypt and the date of granting self-determination to the Palestinians. The reply, as you have seen, is a floating ['ayim] reply. It is not a positive but a floating reply, but it has not severed all the threads. No. It follows the pattern of the Israelis who float the matter one way or another.

On this occasion, I would like to reiterate before the council of the Egyptian family that our position remains unchanged. The lands of the West Bank, Gaza sector, the Golan and Sinai, which were occupied in 1967, must be returned. All aspects of the Palestinian question must be solved. Its political aspect and the humanitarian aspect relating to the refugees must be solved. [applause] Some might ask me if I am optimistic about the future. I answer and say before you that I am optimistic. Even if Israel does not respond in a realistic manner to the initiative--a response which must rise to the level of responsibility--this will not mean that this is the end of the world as far as we are concerned. I will meet with you and will explain the whole picture to you and to the people. We will adopt the decisions we want. What really distinguishes us is that we are neither nervous nor are we isolated in a corner like Israel, and nobody will be able to take from us what we cannot give or are unwilling to give. This is as far as the external issue is concerned.

You have heard me say that we are prepared to discuss any new elements submitted by Israel, elements that would mean movement instead of the standstill to which they are adhering. If there are new elements, then we will be prepared to hear and discuss them in a direct manner. We are also prepared for peace and to give mutual security guarantees--security for us and security for them. We are not prepared, however, to relinquish one inch of Arab territory--not only Egyptian territory. [applause]

As for my request to you to debate the situation, prepare the codes of ethics and shamelessness in the practicing of democracy, and lay down controls, I hope that Secretary General Dr Mustafa Khalil will collect all the data required and prepare a report on it with the assistance of whoever he wants among you. You are naturally required to express your opinion so that the report may be prepared and distributed before the 22 July meeting and so that the people may have time to understand it. We will then meet to adopt the decisions we want regarding the future--decisions which will consolidate and strengthen our democratic march and which will truly and justly turn Egypt into a stable state. This is the state which has a history of 7,000 years and which established the first government and first civilization in the world.

We want decisions which will teach lessons in ethics to those who need them and will teach them that the people will not tolerate any ethical irresponsibility in the coming stage. We will thus be able to prepare a dignified and lofty homeland, as Egypt has been throughout history, for our future generations. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO U.S. QUESTIONS CRITICIZED

NC2017202Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Jun 78 NC

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "What Is Next After the Israeli Response to the United States?"]

[Text] The ASU Central Committee held an emergency meeting today in which President as-Sadat delivered a comprehensive speech dealing with the most important issues of the domestic action in the present stage and many other issues. The most important of these issues is the Middle East problem; in this respect, the president described the Israeli reply to the U.S. questions as representing an indecisive and negative attitude.

In light of the above, we will deal with the attitude of Menahem Begin's government on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, an attitude that was exposed in the Israeli reply to the U.S. questions on this matter.

The Egyptian foreign minister has, as a matter of fact, expressed Egypt's deep regret over the Israeli attitude. Responsible sources in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry have affirmed that the Israeli reply does not encourage the resumption of any sort of negotiations with Israel.

While we wait to see what direction future events and developments will take, we can here make some remarks on the Israeli attitude, the first being that the Israeli attitude leaves no room for negotiation. This, perhaps, is what Begin's government was trying to imply. Moreover, the behavior of the Israeli defense minister, 'Ezer Weizman, who opposed the Israeli reply in its present formulation, clearly shows how the Israeli officials, whether they oppose Begin or support him, really view the situation. The Israeli defense minister announced that he will not submit his resignation but will have nothing to do with the peace negotiations, and will concentrate on preparing the Israeli Army for a new and anticipated war, following the Israeli Government's negative reply to the U.S. questions.

This attitude does not need any elaboration. The Israeli defense minister, who played a distinguished role in the peace contacts which took place from last November up to the present, is aware that the attitude of his government can never be accepted by the Egyptian side. This does not mean that the attitude of Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman essentially differs from his government's attitude. This is because the difference between those who oppose and those who support [the Israeli attitude] within the Menahem Begin government is not about Israel's stand concerning the future of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the other Arab territories occupied since 1967, so much as about the method of dealing with the United States. So much for the attitude of those who oppose the Begin government within the government itself.

The attitude of the Israeli opposition, represented by the Israeli Labor Party, does not differ much from those who oppose Begin [within the government]. All are concerned, first and foremost, with the method of dealing with the United States and are generally demanding that adjustments be made in Menahem Begin's proposals. In these proposals Begin is clinging to the stipulation that no Palestinian state be established and to the need for making adjustments to the borders which existed prior to 5 June 1967.

As for Menahem Begin's stand and those who support him--foremost among whom is Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan--the least that can be said about this stand is that it is distinguished by defiance, provocation and intransigence, not only toward the Arab countries but toward the United States and Western public opinion in general. From Moshe Dayan's press conference we can determine with certainty that this stand is based on the annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Israel and the extension of the other occupied Arab territories. For the West Bank has become Judea and Samaria in their thoughts and utterances, and we need not elaborate further on this.

We reiterate that what illustrates the situation best is what the Israeli defense minister announced concerning preparations for a war in the near future, which has become essential following the negative attitude of the Begin government. These remarks were not uttered by us. We do not advocate war nor sing its praise. We still want a just peace and will continue to strive for it. The whole world is witness to our aforementioned attitude.

AMBASSADOR EXPLAINS DENUNCIATIONS OF AS-SADAT

LD201554Y Lisbon in Portuguese to Timor Maco and Australia 1025 GMT 20 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpt] Gen Sa'd ash-Shadhili, Egyptian ambassador in Lisbon, explaining why he had decided to come out in the open against President as-Sadat's regime, has told ANOP that hidden discontent with President as-Sadat had only come to a head during the last 2 weeks when new laws had been promulgated. He said that his conscience would no longer allow him to tolerate the situation. Millions of Egyptians would like to say what I am saying, but dare not--and they cannot be criticized for that, the diplomat said.

General ash-Shadhili went on to say that the harm As-Sadat has done in the last 3 or 4 years is beyond repair. As-Sadat's foreign policy takes us nowhere. His economic policy is an open-door one as much as it is restrictive, and undemocratic laws are already there in force to prevent any criticism.

Reaffirms Criticism

LD202328Y Lisbon in Portuguese to Europe 1930 GMT 20 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] The unexpected statements made by Gen Sa'd ash-Shadhili, the Egyptian ambassador to Lisbon, are given much prominence in today's press.

The general told a Lisbon daily that he will return to Egypt only if given assurances that he will not be detained following the hearing of a disciplinary council meeting. General ash-Shadhili said that As-Sadat is not an extreme rightwinger but just an autocrat, and he himself is not an extreme leftwinger but just an upholder of democracy.

Yesterday Ash-Shadhili told Portuguese newsmen that he does not intend to ask Portugal for political asylum, adding that he is waiting for As-Sadat's reaction before making his next move.

Reaffirming his criticism of the legislation recently promulgated by the Egyptian president, the ambassador added that he is only voicing what millions of Egyptians feel but are unable to say.

Will Leave Portugal

JN201355Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Commenting on a decision suspending him from working as the Egyptian ambassador in Lisbon, Lt Gen Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili today said he is defending democracy in Egypt. Ash-Shadhili added that he considers As-Sadat to be an autocrat. He said that he will not return to Cairo unless he is sure he will not be arrested.

Ash-Shadhili, who opposes As-Sadat's policy, said that he will leave Portugal for an unspecified country, and that he is sure that he will be welcome in any Arab country.

FORMER OFFICIAL REJECTS AS-SADAT'S ACCUSATIONS

JN201419Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 20 June--In his capacity as an Egyptian citizen, 'Abd al-Majid Farid, chairman of the Arab Popular Conference, has replied to accusations directed against him by the As-Sadat regime. Mr Farid sent the reply in two letters by registered mail to As-Sadat and his prime minister, Mamduh Salim. He said that he stands by his rejection of As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem which is rejected by many people inside and outside Egypt, especially by those who have devoted many years of their lives to the struggle to liberate Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

Farid, who was at one time an assistant to late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, said that all the members of the Arab Popular Conference are concerned with preserving the dignity of the Arab people of Egypt and with their struggles and sacrifices. The members of the conference, who represent 70 parties and 140 trade unions from all Arab countries, are unanimous in their rejection of As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem, Mr Farid added.

It is well known that As-Sadat's authorities have named Farid among those Egyptian personalities who have been summoned for trial in an attempt to terrorize and suppress the Egyptian nationalist movement.

PRIME MINISTER SALIM CHAIRS CABINET MEETING

NC211053Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Jun 78 NC

[Text] The cabinet met this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mamduh Salim. It discussed issues pertaining to the requirements of national action at this stage as outlined by President as-Sadat to the ASU Central Committee yesterday. The cabinet also discussed the results of the visit paid to the United States by Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, as well as Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil's tour of the United States and other countries.

AN-NAHAR SAYS IRAQ, U.S. TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS

JN201225Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Press reports in Beirut said today that the United States and Iraq will resume diplomatic relations shortly. This report, which was published in the Lebanese paper AN-NAHAR, has not been confirmed by the Iraqi Government.

Iraq severed its relations with Washington following the 1967 war.

Iraqi Information Minister Denial

JN210844Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 June--Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi has declared that Iraq finds no justification for restoring diplomatic relations with the United States, which have been severed since 1967.

Hammudi emphasized that what is being said about an early resumption of Iraqi-U.S. relations is an exposed attempt "to link the events which Iraq has recently witnessed with what has been said about tension in Iraqi-Soviet relations and thus reach a conclusion that the next step is to improve relations with the United States."

Hammudi said that those who hold these illusions forget or ignore the nature of the revolution in Iraq and the goals and principles governing it.

This came in a press interview published by the Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR today. Hammudi is currently in Beirut to participate in the meeting of the Arab Journalists' Union currently convening there.

Hammudi affirmed that no basic change has taken place in the stand of the U.S. administration toward the Arab-Zionist dispute; Washington continues to give unlimited support to the Zionist entity.

Asked by the newspaper AN-NAHAR about reports to the effect that Iraq has permitted Soviet planes enroute to Africa to land in Iraq, Hammudi explained that these planes have never been forbidden to fly in Iraqi airspace. He emphasized, however, that it is unreasonable for Iraq to serve as a passage that is used to support stands that contradict its original stands. Hammudi said that Iraq supports the Eritrean revolution. Therefore, Iraq is eager not to take a stand that contradicts this support. Iraq also refuses to be used as passage or a bridge in support of the Ethiopian regime, because Iraq believes in the right of the Eritrean people and their armed revolution, as well as their right to choose the path that suits them.

In reply to a question about the Iraqi Communist Party, the minister of information said that it is still one of the parties belonging to the Progressive National and Nationalist Front and is still attending its periodic meetings. He also added that the party's ministers are still in the government and the party's dailies, weeklies and monthlies are still being published without censorship. The minister of information pointed out that the proof on this is what was published in the newspaper TARIQ ASH-SHA'B, organ of the Iraqi Communist Party, in reply to the accusations made against its party.

He said that what happened in Iraq was the result of a violation of a decision issued by the Revolution Command Council in 1971, or 2 years before the creation of the front. This decision bans non-Ba'thists from carrying out political action in the armed forces. He pointed out that this decision was one of the conditions for the establishment of the front approved by the Iraq Communist Party.

Hammudi affirmed that no greater opportunity for freedom of action is available than that open to the Iraqi Communists. Those who shed crocodile tears on the status of these communists forget the position of the communists in their own countries. He said that what has happened in Iraq is a domestic matter which absolutely does not affect Iraqi-Soviet relations.

Asked about a diversification of sources in arms procurement, Hammudi said that Iraq favors a diversification of weapons procurement so that the freedom of decision and the formulation of positions might remain in harmony with national interests and in our hands and the hands of the Arab nation. Hammudi affirmed that Iraq does not hesitate for one moment to obtain from any source any weapons which strengthen our combat capability as long as there are no conditions attached.

IRAQ, TURKEY BEGIN TALKS ON TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS

JN181620Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 18 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 June--Official Iraqi-Turkish talks began here today on the possibility of developing cooperation between the two countries in the field of transport and communications. The Iraqi side was headed by Transport Minister Dr Mukarram Jamal at-Talabani and the Turkish side by Transportation Minister Gunes Ongut.

At the outset of the talks, the Iraqi minister assured the Turkish guest of Iraq's desire to expand the scope of cooperation and friendship with neighbor Turkey. For his part, the Turkish transportation minister expressed his pleasure in visiting Iraq and meeting with officials to discuss the development of friendly ties between the two neighbor countries.

After that, the two sides reviewed the items on the agenda, which included the prospects of cooperation in the fields of rail, truck and sea transport, as well as telecommunications.

It was decided to form a specialized committee from members of both sides to examine the items on the agenda and draft the recommendations for final approval.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi-Turkish subcommittee for railroad transport began its work today. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on rail transport between the two countries and the means to remove the obstacles preventing the expansion of activities in this field.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ALGIERS TO ATTEND OAPEC MEETING

JN210935Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0922 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 June--A delegation of the Iraqi Oil Ministry left Baghdad for Algiers this morning to participate in the OAPEC symposium which will begin on Saturday and last five days. The symposium will discuss questions relating to an exchange of expertise and information among OAPEC members, as well as coordination in their training courses and the arrangements for the establishment of the Arab oil training institute in Iraq.

IRANIAN WAR COLLEGE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN191743Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 19 June--A delegation of teachers and students of the Iranian War College arrived in Amman today on a visit of several days to Jordan. The delegation is lead by Maj Gen (Mohammad Adbar Nazad).

During the visit, the members of the delegation will meet with high-ranking military officials and will visit a number of military units and institutes.

JORDANIAN ENVOY TO U.S. SAYS ISRAEL CLOSES DOOR TO PEACE

JN201216Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] 'Abdallah Salah, Jordanian ambassador in Washington, has said that the Israeli reply to the U.S. questions on the future of the West Bank and Gaza closes the door to peace efforts in the Middle East.

In a statement published in the New York TIMES, 'Abdallah Salah said that the decision of the Israeli Government the day before yesterday aims mainly at avoiding any commitment to withdraw from the West Bank inhabitants to determine their own future.

AMMAN PAPERS SCORE ISRAELI REPLIES TO AMERICAN QUESTIONS

JN190704Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In their editorials today, Jordanian papers discuss the Israeli reply to the American questions. The papers point to the cheating and procrastination in the Israeli replies as well as to the continuation of the aggressive and expansionist policy which Israel has been following. The papers urge the United States to take a harder stand toward Israel, particularly now that Israel's intentions, from its replies to the specific American questions, have been made clear.

Under the headline "Israel Answers and Does Not Answer," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: If it is true that Washington's objective in sending the two well-known questions to the Israeli Government was to pressure the Begin government, or to work to topple it, or to commit Israel to a clear stand toward the future of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Palestinians, then all these objectives were aborted yesterday through the victory which Begin achieved in the replies which the Israeli cabinet furnished to the American questions and which protected his cabinet from collapse.

AD-DUSTUR adds: It is true that Weizman opposed the formula of the answers, and the cabinet members of the Democratic Movement for Change abstained from voting. However, Weizman does not have the party or popular support enabling him to influence Israeli foreign policy. The Democratic Movement for Change has also lost the influence it enjoyed on the political level when the cabinet was formed, and it no longer has any significant weight. Thus, Begin has succeeded, at least for some time, in protecting his cabinet from collapse by rallying the majority of his cabinet members behind him, leaving his opponents to make the decision which suits them.

AD-DUSTUR asks: What is the nature of the replies which Begin gave to the American questions? The best reply to this question is an editorial in the Jerusalem POST yesterday. The Jerusalem POST said that the differences among the cabinet members on the formula for the reply to Washington's questions revolved on tactics not on strategy. There was unanimity among the cabinet members that Israel should maintain sovereignty over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the near and distant future. However, the problem was whether it was wise to admit these intentions publicly and how these intentions should be disclosed and when.

AD-DUSTUR explains: Thus, after 4 weeks of American waiting, Israeli procrastination, Begin's pretending to be sick and fabricated differences among his cabinet members, the Israeli replies come to confirm something which actually needed no confirmation; namely, that after 5 years of what Israel calls autonomy, it does not intend to recognize Palestinian sovereignty over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but it wants this to be subject to other negotiations among the concerned sides. The Israeli reply does not promise anything more than a review of the situation of what Israel calls Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza region. This is a very flexible phrase subject to many interpretations. It is not what Cairo and Washington expected. They wanted a clear and frank Israeli commitment to fully evacuate these areas and hand them over to their rightful owners.

As for the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, Israel resorted to maneuvers. It said that one of the sides to the negotiations at the end of 5 years would consist of groups elected from among the inhabitants of the occupied areas, not from all the Palestinian people, and provided that they be elected in accordance with the autonomy plan drafted by Begin himself. Moreover, the negotiations would take place on the basis of recognizing that Israel has the right to contest the Palestinian right to sovereignty, as included in Article 24 of the autonomy plan.

AD-DUSTUR continues: The United States thought that its questions to Tel Aviv would persuade it to make the self-rule phase a temporary arrangement after which full evacuation and the right to self-determination would follow. However, Israel, by its answers yesterday, confirmed that it will hold sovereignty over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip forever, that it will deny the right of the Palestinians to independence and that it will not allow them anything more than to develop a method of self-rule within the framework of Israeli sovereignty over Palestinian lands.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The big question is what Cairo will do now that Israel has buried the well-known initiative and broken off all dialog with Cairo, except one according to its own terms. What will Washington do now that the Israeli answers have come like a cold shower after a long wait. Perhaps this might turn out for the best. Israeli frankness might be useful in making Cairo and Washington take decisive stands, and this, in fact, is what is required.

ARABS URGE WALDHEIM TO RESCIND UNRWA TRANSFER

JN201244Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Last night, the ambassadors of six Arab countries urged Kurt Waldheim, UN secretary general, to rescind a decision to transfer the head office of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] to Vienna. The ambassadors said that such a transfer will cost a great deal, and furthermore it will take the agency away from the Middle East, which is UNRWA's natural political region. The six countries are: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Qatar and the PLO observer to the UN.

The UNRWA offices are currently located in Amman and Beirut.

WEST BANK REFUGEE LEADERS PROTEST TRANSFER OF UNRWA HQ

JN2010599Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jun 78 p 16 JN

[Excerpt] Nabulus--A large number of mukhtars and notables in the West Bank refugee camps have expressed their resentment and protest concerning the decision of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] to run its operations from a foreign capital, thus violating the UN and humanitarian resolutions on the basis of which it was established. These resolutions require UNRWA to run its operations from one of the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees. The mukhtars and notables have voiced this opposition following the decision of the UNRWA commissioner general to transfer his headquarters from Beirut to Vienna.

The mukhtars and notables of the refugees in the Nabulus area have held consultations with other West Bank mukhtars and notables to address an urgent memo this week to Dr Kurt Waldheim, secretary general of the United Nations; the chairman of the UN Security Council; the commissioner general of UNRWA; the Jordanian prime minister; the Jordanian minister of reconstruction and development; and the head of the Executive Committee for the Affairs of the Occupied Territory in Amman demanding the cancellation of this decision and the transfer of the headquarters, if conditions in Beirut are untenable, to Amman where the Jordanian Government has created the right atmosphere for the headquarters.

JORDAN TIMES CRITICIZES UNRWA RELOCATION DECISION

JN2106000Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jun 78 p 2 JN

[Editorial: "Why Vienna?"]

[Text] The latest in the controversy surrounding the decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) to transfer its headquarters from Beirut is a protest, by UN Arab diplomats to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim against the choice of Vienna for a new UNRWA location.

After a period of suspense in which statements to the effect that UNRWA was thinking of moving out of Beirut to one of the three cities of Amman, Damascus or Vienna, the agency last week announced that the bulk of its headquarters would be moved to Vienna and only a minor part of its operations will be located in Amman. No official reason was ever given for the need to leave Beirut, but it has been understood that the decision was motivated by the lack of security and the disruptions caused by the Lebanese civil war. No one can deny UNRWA the right to secure surroundings or the right to operate in efficiency. But the least that can be said of the agency's decision to move to Vienna, rather than Amman or even Damascus, is that it is a controversial decision.

The media in the Arab world has been rife for some time with reported rumours that the United Nations intends to phase out UNRWA and to eventually cease offering its relief services to Palestinian refugees. In view of the uncertainty that currently overshadows the political future of the Middle East and of the Palestinian question, such rumours can only become more persuasive when UNRWA takes a decision such as this. Add to it UNRWA's annual financial problems and the almost regular reports that unless money is poured into the agency fast it may have to close down--and one begins to wonder.

When we hear that UNRWA has decided to move its headquarters to Vienna, a beautiful city no doubt but a city far away from the area where the one-and-a-half-million reasons for the very existence of the agency live, we wonder at the efficiency of the decision. Also, when UNRWA this year alone faces a deficit of about $27 million, we question the expediency of such a move when it is expected to cost more than $2 million.

If UNRWA's decision to move out of Beirut stems from the need for security, would it not be more rational and easier to move to Amman? Jordan, according to the Arab diplomats at the U.N., has been able to offer the agency all the facilities and services it requires for its headquarters here, Jordan is in the region where the Palestinian refugees live, UNRWA is no stranger to Amman for it already used it as headquarters when the Lebanese civil war was really hot and, finally, the costs of moving from Beirut to Amman can nowhere be as high as those to Vienna.

U.N. Secretary General Waldheim has promised the Arab diplomats who called on him to study the issue further. Let us hope so. And let us hope a more rational decision be made--one which will silence rumours that UNRWA intends to eventually give up its commitment to Palestinian refugees.

AMMAN RADIO CALLS FOR GENUINE ARAB SOLIDARITY

JN181950Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpts] The meetings of the Arab Solidarity Committee opened yesterday in Khartoum with a report from President Numayri on the outcome of his recent tour of Arab capitals.

We here in Jordan are with the Arab Solidarity Committee and with the Arab League secretary general in their joint efforts to revive Arab solidarity, after it has been blown by the winds of Arab political differences. We hope that this solidarity will be stronger than existing political differences and divisions between the Arabs.

We see solidarity as the broad base on which Arab national existence is founded. We also see it as a strategy for concerted Arab efforts to achieve Arab interests.

Thus, we are concerned lest the Arab Solidarity Committee, currently meeting in Khartoum, turn into another Arab League agency which holds meetings whenever it is necessary and suspends these meetings when there is no need for its work.

To ensure that our cherished Arab solidarity does not become occasional solidarity or come under the mercy of any change in the Arab political atmosphere, Jordan was the first to call on the Arab leaders to make serious attempts to establish the foundations of a genuine Arab solidarity, to build Arab national relations on firm bases and to prepare solid grounds for Arab action and thereby avoid a repetition of the catastrophe caused by the loss of this solidarity and the danger of forming committees to search for this solidarity in the labyrinths of Arab differences.

Out of our serious desire to establish Arab solidarity on firm foundations which will not be shaken by side differences and existing divisions, we have called and continue to call on our brothers to adhere to the essence of the Arab existence, which is built on our common Arab destiny and existence. Although hopes and wishes do not build the future of nations, we still wish the current committee success in its efforts to revive Arab solidarity and also hope that the Arab nation will adhere to the bases of its survival, power, existence and destiny.

MENA REPORTS ON SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON

NC2020407 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 20 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, 20 June--The Beirut press reports today that Majors Sa'd Haddad and Sami Shidyaq of the armed militias in the south have been placed under house arrest and that the elements supporting them have been disarmed. These reports add that Louis Arsuni, a member of the rightist militia, has carried out a coup against Majors Haddad and Shidyaq.

The French language paper LE REVEIL quotes the leader of the coup as saying that UN forces and the Lebanese army will not enter the south until the Palestinians leave Lebanon. He is further quoted as saying that he will not hand over the positions occupied by his militia to the UN forces because they cannot control the situation. He is also quoted as saying that thousands of armed men--and not only 150, as General Erskine, the commander of the UN emergency forces claims--have filtered through the barriers of the UN forces. An official of the emergency forces command has stated, however, that while the present situation does not call for despair, there is a fear that the civil war could be resumed in the south. This, he said, is something which the United Nations does not want and is trying to prevent. He added that the UN forces do not want harm to befall anyone and that they have come to Lebanon to solve problems and to provide protection for everyone who is afraid.

Explosions, Machinegun Fire

JN201711Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Sounds of explosions and machinegun fire were heard last evening in Al-Qulay'ah and Marj 'Uyun in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon which is controlled by the rightist forces. The INA correspondent reported that artillery shelling took place in the same sector between the villages of Al-Balat and Ibi-as-Saqi. The correspondent pointed out that intensive activities by rightist forces are taking place in the areas facing the UNIFIL forces. He stated that the reason for the shelling is not yet known, but it is believed to be taking place between various groups in the rightist camp. Flares were seen last evening over the villages of Al-Bayyadah, Shama' and Tibnin on the southern coast.

Israeli Ships Patrol Coast

JN211000Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 June--Four ships of the Zionist navy tried to approach the southern Lebanese coast near the city of Tyre, at dawn today. The joint forces engaged them and forced them to retreat to the high seas. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the enemy boats are continuously patroling the Lebanese coast between the cities of Sidon and Tyre, thereby imposing a kind of siege on the coast and on the approaches to the two cities.

Israeli Foodstuff Smugglers Caught

JN201431Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1414 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 June--The popular security forces in the city of Tyre in southern Lebanon today confiscated three trucks laden with foodstuffs smuggled from inside occupied Palestine via An-Naqurah. The popular security forces destroyed the cargo, impounded the trucks and detained the drivers for interrogation.

Norwegian Troops Deny Encirclement

TA201825Y Paris AFP in English 1802 GMT 20 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Metulla, Israeli-Lebanese frontier, June 20 (AFP)--Norwegian United Nations Troops have denied reports that they were encircled in the Marj 'Uyun area by Christian-conservative militia.

The reports came from an Oslo newspaper and from Lebanese who passed through the area on their way to work in Israel.

Violent explosions and firing were heard here from the area around the Christian enclave of Marj 'Uyun and nearby villages, where the Norwegian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had taken up position.

However, a spokesman for the Norwegians said: "It is true that we were blocked for several hours but since Sunday we have had no further problems and we are receiving our supplies quite normally."

VOICE OF LEBANON CITES STATEMENT BY ZGHARTA NOTABLES

NC210749Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 21 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpts] Deputies Renee Mu'awwad and Father Sim'an ad-Duwayhi and Messrs Simon Bulus, Salim Karam and Robert Sulayman Franjiyah have distributed a statement accusing the Phalangists of working to settle the Palestinians [presumably in Lebanon] and of planning to seize power.

The statement accuses the Phalangists of being against legality and says: Our battle will not end with a reconciliation between the [bereaved] families and the Phalangist Party. This type of reconciliations has ended. Our battle will end when the state restores its control over every part of our dear homeland. Our battle will end when there will no longer be any group or individual who considers himself above the law and allows for himself what he denies to others. Our battle will end when the criminals who planned and committed the crimes in Ihdin and the north, crimes which have been condemned throughout the world, are brought to trial.

Our battle will end, the statement adds, when the state becomes capable of confronting anyone who tries to strike at the unity of this country in implementation of alien plans.

The statement also accuses the Lebanese Phalangists of advocating partition. The statement also tries to sow doubts and differences between the Phalangists and the other Lebanese parties and organizations.

A news agency called "the Information Bureau in Zgharta" [maktab al-'ilam fi Zgharta] began to publish news bulletins in Zgharta. The news agency started its work by publishing the aforementioned statement.

The newspaper AL-BAYRAQ last night asked Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, leader of the Lebanese Phalangist Party, about his view on this statement. He merely put a question to those who issued the statement, saying: Do they really believe in what they have said?"

TISHRIN VIEWS U.S. POLICY AIMS IN MIDDLE EAST

JN161117Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Jun 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In its column "With the Events," and under the headline "America Clarifies Its Middle East Policy," the newspaper TISHRIN comments on this subject by saying: The United States does not proceed from a position of commitment to its interests alone. It also proceeds from a position of defending the interests of the West as well, so that they will not fall like dominoes. Thus, the Middle East constitutes a center of international contact and, sometimes, of international conflict.

The United States does not conceal the fact that one offshoot of wars in the region might be its involvement in a limited war with the Soviet Union if influential forces remain outside its control.

The United States considers As-Sadat's political course following his visit to Israel and the course of moderation which supports As-Sadat's policy as some sort of an alliance. It is trying to strengthen this alliance because it is the base or bridge which it will use to implement its plans.

U.S. commitment to Israel continues to be a permanent feature of U.S. policy. However, safeguarding Israel's security, from the U.S. standpoint, now depends upon maintaining a military power coupled with peaceful relations with its neighbors, as well as close U.S. cooperation with the main Arab states. This cooperation is essential to achieve and guarantee this peace which, in practice, aims at containing the area and putting it within the area of the U.S. security belt.

AL-BA'TH SCORES TERRORIST CAMPAIGN IN IRAQ

JN210715Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] On its fourth page, the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes a commentary analyzing the situation in Iraq. The paper states the following under the headline "Will These At-Tikriti Terrorist Campaigns Lead to the Immiment Popular Explosion?":

The ordinary citizen in the fraternal country is convinced that he is deprived of even a minimum participation in national affairs. He suffers daily from fascist measures. He realizes that these measures are designed to isolate him from struggle. The citizen knows that the terrorist campaigns conducted by the At-Tikriti regime will not be the last ones. Yet at the same time the citizen has the means to confront the fascist group. The recent escalation of terror is an indication of an immiment popular explosion which we expect to create a new era in fraternal Iraq.

SYRIAN, ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCIES SIGN AGREEMENT

JN182015Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 18 June--An agreement on mutual cooperation in the information field was signed this evening between the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY [SANA] and the ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE [APS]. The agreement was signed by Dr Sabir Falhut, the director general of SANA, and Bin Yusuf Baba Ali, the director general of APS.

The agreement is designed to strengthen cooperation between the two agencies through an exchange of news and wirephoto services in the interest of both fraternal countries and peoples.

The agreement also provides that either agency will place all its facilities at the disposal of the other, so the news of the two countries will be transmitted on each other's networks. The agreement also stipulates that either agency will facilitate the mission of the office of its counterpart in its country in transmitting and receiving news.

The talks between the delegations of the two agencies began yesterday when the draft agreement was reviewed. The signing of the agreement comes in implementation of the resolutions of the conference of the foreign ministers of member states of the front of steadfastness and confrontation which was held recently in Algiers.

The APS director general and the accompanying delegation visited the various sections of SANA today and were briefed on the agency's operations.

BA'TH PARTY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR TRIPOLI

JN201401Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] An Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation headed by Comrade Yusuf al-As'ad, member of the Regional Command, left today for Tripoli to attend the meetings of the permanent General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Conference which will be held in Libya. The meetings will end on 24 June.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER LEAVES ON VISIT TO GDR

JN181435Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1240 GMT 18 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 18 June--Ahmad Qablan, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, left Damascus today for the GDR on a visit of a few days at the head of an official delegation at the invitation of the friendly GDR Government. The delegation is made up of Eng Michel 'Abdallah, general director of the general corporation to utilize the Euphrates Basin, and a number of senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture. In a statement to a SANA correspondent before departing, the minister said that during his visit he will hold discussions with his GDR counterpart and with GDR specialists on promoting and strengthening relations between the two friendly countries in various agricultural fields and in rural development. He will also visit some agricultural projects and study ways to implement such projects.

BA'TH DELEGATION MEETS WITH HUNGARIAN VICE PRESIDENT

JN201958Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Budapest--The delegation of the Syrian Peace Council led by Comrade George Saddiqni, member of the National Command of the Ba'th Party, met today with the Hungarian vice president. They discussed the Middle East situation and issues of interest to the two friendly countries, Syria and Hungary. The Hungarian leader praised Syria's role under President Hafiz al-Asad in resisting the Zionist and imperialist plans. Comrade Saddiqni praised the relations between the two parties and peoples in Syria and Hungary.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN--Hunayn Hatim, Syrian ambassador to Spain, took the constitutional oath before President Hafiz al-Asad at 1530 today. The president received him after the ceremony and gave him his directives. [Text] [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN]

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI ARRIVES IN CSSR ON VISIT ON 20 JUNE

For Prague Domestic Service and CETEKA coverage of the Czechoslovakian visit of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, general secretary of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, see the 21 June and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

MILITARY INDUSTRIALIZATION ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED

LD201404Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jun 78 LD

[Text] JANA has learned that a General Authority for Military Industrialization attached to the General Command of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces has been set up. The establishment of this authority is considered a new addition to the achievements of the Great 1 September Resolution--dependence on our own resources in the field of weapons and military equipment production and a new [word indistinct] in the sphere of military industrialization. The aim of the General Authority for Military Industrialization is to build an advanced military industry foundation and to draw up plans to halt a world monopoly of weapons.

MOROCCO

HASSAN RENEWS COMMITMENT TO ZAIRE, HITS ALGERIAN ROLE

LD191527Y Paris LE MONDE in French 18-19 Jun 78 p 4 LD

["D.J." report: "African Countries Have Taken Over From Cuba in the Shaba Affair"]

[Text] "Valery Giscard d'Estaing is a well-bred gentleman. This is particularly valuable since it is so rare these days." This was one of the many remarks made by Moroccan King Hassan II in a long interview with Edouard Sablier which was broadcast on the French radio phone-in program "Le Telephone Zonne" on Friday 16 June. The king showed his usual zest in dealing with many different subjects, not hesitating to comment on French internal policy. The king, who advocated a meeting between Mr Giscard d'Estaing and the opposition leaders after his official visit to France in November 1976, welcomed the fact that this meeting has finally taken place. On this subject he said: "France is going through a political spring and is blossoming politically. Morocco is extremely pleased about this."

Commenting on the Moroccan expeditionary force which has been sent to Zaire, the king stated that Operation Shaba 2 would be followed by Operation Shaba 80 or 100, if necessary. The essence of what he said was that Morocco is not interfering in Zaire's internal affairs or supporting a government. But it will oppose any attempt at destabilization from outside as long as is necessary. "As long as Angola and Zaire are incompatible," he explained, "the latter will be threatened." Although he did not implicate the Cubans directly, the king stated without any further explanation that "African countries which do not border Zaire" had taken over from Havana. "President Mobutu will disclose information on this matter when he wants to," he added. The king was probably referring to Algeria, among other countries, and later he said that Algeria was acting in a way "aimed at destablizing the African continent."

However, the king obviously avoided attacking the Algerian Government too strongly even when he dealt with the burning question of Western Sahara. He optimistically stated that the Arab League's dossier on this subject was closed and that Morocco's position would be recognized as just by the OAU if this organization managed to convene an extraordinary summit on the subject in Khartoum. However, he made no reference to the daily battles between the royal armed forces and the POLISARIO Front's fighters. The king did not rule out the possibility of an improvement in Moroccan-Algerian relations, which could be helped by improved French relations with Algeria--something "which does not seem likely at the moment."

Questioned on the kingdom's internal problems, the head of state said he regretted the fact that "local councillors are not using all the powers they have been given." "We must produce a new political elite, men well versed in state and public affairs. In a word, I would like the democratic machine to run faster."

SUDAN

ENERGY, MINING MINISTER BRIEFS NUMAYRI ON OIL PRODUCTION

JN191827Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1655 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 19 June--Today, President Ja'far Numayri received Major Ma'mun 'Awad Abu Zayd, minister of energy and mining. The minister gave President Numayri a report on the results of the first stage of the experiments carried out at Al-Wahdah Oilwell No 1.

Minister Abu Zayd presented President Numayri with a sample of the oil produced by the well. The oil proved to be of high quality after being subjected to various tests, and the minister will submit a full report on the final results of the tests to President Numayri in the next few days. These results are expected to be made public by the president in the near future.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA TELLS OF MEETING WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT

LD192140Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira met with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing in Paris this morning. [Passage indistinct] after leaving the Elysee Palace Nouira said that he raised a number of bilateral issues and others concerning the situation in the Mediterranean with the French president. Concerning bilateral relations, Nouira said that there are no great difficulties between us and that cooperation between the two countries is proceeding along its straight path. There are only a few marginally unimportant issues, and solutions for them will be found.

The prime minister added: We also discussed the issues which concern Tunisia, France (?and the Mediterranean countries), and our viewpoints are quite indentical.

Answering a question, Nouira explained that the issues raised were in connection with everything that has a link with Africa and the Mediterranean, for North Africa is at the same time a Mediterranean and an African country.

Asked about the trade deficit between Tunisia and France, the prime minister said that this deficit is not harmful because it resulted from the importation of investment materials and that the French Government and Tunisia will inevitably find a way to contain this deficit by relying on their energetic economic ties and particularly by relying on our development policy.

Comments on Barre Meeting

LD172243Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira said, following his meeting today in Paris with his counterpart Raymond Barre, that Tunisian-French relations are cordial and friendly.

The French-Tunisian meeting, which lasted about an hour, dealt with a number of matters pertaining to bilateral relations between the two countries and problems in the Mediterranean.

Hedi Nouira pointed out that the views of both countries on these matters are identical.

Meets With Tunisian Workers

LD190850Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Yesterday, Hedi Nouira, prime minister and secretary general of party, met with Tunisian workers in Paris at the Tunisian Cultural Center on the occasion of the meeting held with the workers by Mohamed Jomaar, social affairs minister. Mohamed Jomaar headed a delegation from his ministry sent to Paris to meet with Tunisian workers in France, Germany and Libya.

Hedi Nouira spoke to the workers on Tunisia's relations with France which he said are based on the exchange and integration of interests, respect and equality.

On the call for the unity of Libya, Tunisia and Algeria, Hedi Nouira said that every unity plan must have a clear objective and tangible essence agreed upon by all the parties concerned. He affirmed that integrated action is the basic pivot of any unity. He pointed out that despite its modest resources, Tunisia has been exerting great efforts for bolstering such action and laying a sound basis for unity.

SPECIAL ENVOY OF SOMALI PRESIDENT ARRIVES

LD182325Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpt] Col Abdelkader El Hadj Muhammed, special envoy of Somali President Siad Barre and member of the Central Committee of the Somali Socialist Revolutionary Party, arrived in Tunis this afternoon bearing a message for President Habib Bourguiba from President Siad Barre. He said his visit falls within the framework of the consultations and exchanges between the two countries.

POST ON AS-SADAT'S LINE, BEGIN'S POLICY

TA210800Y Jerusalem POST in English 21 Jun 78 p 8 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The address delivered yesterday by President as-Sadat before the Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Union was a dubious contribution to the cause of peace. In it, the Egyptian leader repeated the line that the price of normalization must be the return by Israel of every square inch of occupied Arab territory, not only in Sinai but also in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and the Golan.

Such a statement of the Egyptian position will only reinforce Israeli doubts about the seriousness of Mr as-Sadat's professions of peaceful intent.

Surely Mr as-Sadat must be aware that, at the very least, there is a crucial difference between Israel's southern sector, where the armistice line was roughly identical with the international frontier, and the eastern sector, where the "green line" represented only the accidental fortunes of a 30-year war.

He cannot have forgotten that it was the Arab governments, including the Egyptian, which used to point out, at every opportunity, the purely military nature of the eastern line--until another war, 11 years ago, shifted it somewhat farther east. Indeed it appears that he does have a clear recollection of that fact.

That would account for his concession, at a meeting with labor leader Shim'on Peres in Salzburg last December, that Israel does have a genuine security problem in the West Bank; and that Israel might be entitled to "minor" border changes in that area, as well as to the maintenance of military outposts there.

If this version of the Salzburg conversation, as given by Mr Peres to the Knesset on Monday, is in any way incorrect, the error was not righted by anyone in Cairo yesterday; which can only mean that the negotiating Egyptian stand on the West Bank issue remains as it was suggested by Mr as-Sadat to Mr Peres six months ago.

Which, in turn, makes it all the more regrettable that the Egyptian president should keep coming out with bellicose public calls for complete Israeli withdrawal on all fronts.

Perhaps, of course, the minor border changes envisaged by Mr as-Sadat are so minor as not to be worth talking about out loud. Certainly Mr Begin appears to think so. But it is generally conceded that the drawing of a final line in the west--if any such line were ever to be drawn--would have to be a matter not between Israel and Egypt, but between Jordan and Israel.

For the purpose of getting peace talks underway between Cairo and Jerusalem, it should therefore be enough to agree on the principle of Israeli withdrawal to secure and recognized boundaries--which obviously would differ from the old ones. The formula would eschew the emotionally charged notion of territorial compromise, and would avoid spelling out, or even characterizing, the extent of withdrawal.

Despite Mr as-Sadat's fiery words yesterday, it need not be assumed that he would not settle on such a formula. On the other hand, it cannot be assumed that the text would commend itself to Mr Begin.

Because he has set his heart on preserving Judaea, Samaria and Gaza as Israel's heritage forever, even at the price of suspending all sovereignty claims for these areas, the premier must argue the utter impossibility of a redivision of the land. He must downplay any indication of reasonableness, on President as-Sadat's part, and to blow up every sign of his intransigence.

But there's the rub. If the Egyptians, perhaps the most moderate among the Arabs, are so intemperate, how can it be expected that they will ever endorse anything like the autonomy plan--now confirmed by the cabinet as a scheme for perpetual Israeli rule over the more than million Arabs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip--as even a basis for negotiations?

Moreover, if the Arabs--meaning the Egyptians, too--are still as intent on extirpating Israel as some government spokesmen have recently charged, what hope for any settlement is there at all--and why should Israel be calling for talks with them?

These logical contradictions in the Begin policy stem from a basic incompatibility of proclaimed national goals: total peace, and the whole land of Israel. Failure to appreciate this incompatibility is fraught with far graver dangers than Defense Minister Weizman's warning that the policy may lead to another war.

WEIZMAN'S RECENT CONDUCT BRINGS REACTION

Likud Seeks Dismissal

TA201251Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Text] Circles in the Likud are pressuring Prime Minister Menahem Begin to bring about the resignation of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman because of his conduct during the last cabinet session and because of his absence from yesterday's Knesset vote on the cabinet's announcement.

These circles emphasize that their demand stems not only from the fact that there are grave differences of opinion between the prime minister and the defense minister on the formulation of the replies to the United States, but also because they are concerned over Weizman's remarks during the cabinet session: "I will go and prepare the army for the next war." It should be further noted, and with severity, that Weizman did not take part in the vote even though all the ministers were asked, on behalf of the prime minister, to be present during the Knesset debate and vote.

It has been learned that the greatest demand regarding Weizman is from Herut and La'am circles, while the majority in the Liberal Party supports Weizman's staying in the cabinet. Nevertheless, several personalities in the Liberal Party think that the situation that has been created in the cabinet is unbearable and cannot continue for long.

It has been learned from people close to the defense minister that 'Ezer Weizman has no intention of resigning from the cabinet, but that he will now concentrate mainly on matters pertaining to his ministry and less on matters pertaining to the political negotiations. Weizman estimates that the cabinet will have to accept his positions within a few weeks if it wants to prevent a deadlock in the negotiations or heavy pressure from the United States.

POST on Situation

TA210700Y Jerusalem POST in English 21 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[By Joshua Brilliant and David Landau]

[Excerpts] Premier Menahem Begin will take no action against Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman over his angry criticism of the prime minister and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan following Sunday's cabinet row, one of Begin's longest-standing and closest confidants told the Jerusalem POST last night. This despite a wave of protests from Likud hard-liners over Weizman's remarks and behaviour.

The premier's close confidant said he was convinced that Weizman himself was already regretting his angry outbursts. He said it was a measure of Begin's leadership qualities that the premier would take no action against Weizman--even though he could with relative ease secure a vote of no-confidence in the defense minister in the Herut Central Committee. The premier's magnamimity was in no way connected with his poor health, the confidant asserted.

Weizman and his aides have said these past two days that the defense minister would henceforth concentrate on defense matters and desist from overmuch involvement in diplomacy and peacemaking. ("Let us prepare the army for the next war," Weizman is reported to have said to his staff after Sunday's cabinet meeting.)

The close confidant hinted last night that the premier would take Weizman at his word, and would not involve him as much as before in the negotiating process.

"He is a good defense minister," the confidant observed. "No one denies that. And he gets his salary in order to prepare the army for war...."

Another aide reported that Begin showed signs of surprise at Weizman's attacks, but confirmed that he expressed no intention of taking him to task.

In an apparent attempt to create the impression that Weizman is coming in for criticism by the party's rank and file, a source close to Begin told the POST that Herut headquarters in Tel Aviv were inundated with telephone calls and telegrams criticizing the minister. But a well placed source at party headquarters denied the report.

Several cabinet ministers predicted the incident would blow over, should Weizman keep his cool for a while.

One Likud minister said it was highly unlikely anyone would mention it in the cabinet. Another Likud minister told the POST that Weizman has a surprisingly good record as defense minister and should not be judged on the basis of his outburst at a moment of anger. Weizman is known for being careless about statements, and sometimes says things he regrets later. Before reaching any conclusions, the minister said, Weizman ought to be given time to prove whether he really believes the cabinet is leading the country to war.

National Religious Party ministers also reacted calmly yesterday. A leading member of the NRP's Knesset faction told the POST he believed Weizman's position in the cabinet was firm and there is no call for him to resign.

But MK Ehud Olmert (Likud-La'am) demanded the Knesset faction discuss the incident, and MK Miha'el Dekel (Daiksel) said he will raise the matter at Herut's Central Committee meeting on July 2.

"If a person thinks the cabinet is leading the country to war, he must explain how he can be a member of that cabinet," Olmert told the POST.

Some Herut members are expected to try to stem any development of an anti-Weizman tide. "There will be no slaughters and no heads will roll," Shlomo Cohen, a member of Herut's executive told the POST. "'Ezer is too serious a leader, and an outburst of passion should not be allowed to result in his dismissal or create hostile public opinion preventing him from carrying on in the cabinet."

"If 'Ezer will calm down for a week or two, everything will pass quietly," MK Kaufman said.

MA'ARIV Criticizes Weizman

TA201551Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Jun 78 p 5 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] If 'Ezer Weizman's well-thought-out opinion is that the decision taken by the cabinet the day before yesterday renders war inevitable, he bears the moral duty to draw the conclusions and to take his leave not only from the government, but also from the party which is this cabinet's major source of support.

If he does not think that the issue of the peace process is closed and his angry reaction to the cabinet vote is merely an expression of the personal disappointment he felt over the defeat he suffered, one is struck with surprise at seeing a man in his status who does not have better control over his tongue and his nerves. In any case he has caused himself a fair degree of harm in the eyes of the public and all the old fears that accompanied the admiration which his colorful personality arouses--fears which have diminished with his demonstrated devotion to the work of his ministry--were reawakened.

There is in 'Ezer Weizman's character an element of simplicity which is both an important asset and a burden. His adversaries regard this element as an expression of lightheadedness. His supporters say that a very large degree of seriousness and responsibility lies behind it. The defense minister has recently made an effort--which was very successful--to convince the public that his mischievous sense of humor and his temperament which is occasionally expressed in his reactions, are the external guise of a man who, deep inside, is well-balanced and responsible.

What happened yesterday and the day before yesterday--the expressions attributed to him and his demonstrated "grumpy" reaction which was further expressed in his absence from the Knesset vote--has damaged his image. A politician should know how to lose with grace. If his truth remained in the minority, it does not therefore cease to be the truth in his eyes. However, he must be able to draw the line which distinguishes between a defeat whose verdict must be accepted and a defeat which necessitates the drawing of conclusions.

The defense minister did not draw this line. He did not reconcile himself to the fact that in the competition that preceded the cabinet decision he was on the losing side. Neither did he express the feeling that it was a matter of conscience that forced him to weigh his future steps.

He withdrew to a corner, rather hurt and ready to demonstrate his reservation concerning the decision that was made--but not as far as to draw conclusions.

If what they say about him, that after the vote he declared that he was going to his office to prepare the army for war, is true, one of two things is happening:

Either 'Ezer Weizman is putting a blame on his colleagues that is so heavy that there is no longer a way to have constructive cooperation among them; or he is one of those politicians who knows how to win but not how to lose.

WEIZMAN DENIES CALLING BEGIN, DAYAN LIARS

TA202057Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Jun 78 TA

[Excerpt] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman denied to Herut Knesset Member Hayyim Kaufman the statement attributed to him by the paper DAVAR this morning, alleging that he had said that the prime minister and foreign minister have been lying for several months and that they are leading the nation toward war. Knesset Member Kaufman reported the defense minister's denial to correspondent Sara Frankel.

AMBASSADOR DINITZ REPORTS ON TALK WITH SAUNDERS

TA201737Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Israel's ambassador in the United States, Simcha Dinitz, received the impression that the State Department accepted with understanding the Israeli explanation that everything can be included under the headline: The Future Relations. This emerges from a report that has reached Israel after the talk our ambassador in Washington had with Harold Saunders, the assistant of U.S. Secretary of State Vance. The report shows that the position of the United States does not coincide with the position expressed by the State Department spokesman. The entire issue is undergoing an examination and Israel's position will be submitted to Egypt.

Correspondent Sara Frankel has learned that Saunders denied to Dinitz that circles in the administration had expressed disappointment. When Dinitz asked how it was that officials express views on such an issue, Saunders answered he knew no such officials and that nobody had been authorized to make such statements.

Our ambassador in Washington received guidelines that are similar to the explanations given to the U.S. ambassador in Israel by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan regarding the resolution of the Israeli Cabinet.

MONDALE VISIT REASSESSED FOLLOWING CABINET REPLY

TA201354Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Jun 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] Various Israeli and Western diplomatic sources estimate that in approximately 6 weeks the United States will take an initiative and will submit proposals to renew the political momentum. These sources say that within 2 or 3 days the U.S. official reaction to the cabinet's decision of the day before yesterday will arrive.

This reaction, according to the sources, will not reflect the U.S. disappointment with Israel's position. Instead, the United States will prefer "to play the role of the mediator" and let President as-Sadat react first, and afterward evaluate the state of the negotiations.

These sources are convinced that Vice President Walter Mondale's visit to Israel will, as a result of the cabinet's decision, which is not regarded as a real opening for the renewal of the negotiations, have a political rather than a ceremonial character, as has previously been publicized. At the same time, they state that since the purpose of Mondale's visit is to iron out the wrinkles with U.S. Jewry and Israeli public opinion, in their opinion no discordant notes will be raised during the visit and every effort will be made to emphasize the friendship between Israel and the United States as well as the U.S. commitment to the security of Israel.

The assumption that the political issue will be raised during Mondale's visit gains credibility when one looks at the composition of the entourage that will accompany him: Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Harold Saunders, the senior adviser in the National Security Council (headed by Brzezinski), William Quant, and the adviser to the National Security Council, David Aaron.

As will be recalled, the evaluation in diplomatic circles is that only in the weeks following Mondale's visit will the talked-about U.S. initiative which special envoy Atherton and Harold Saunders be launched.

Political circles in Jerusalem who were asked yesterday if in their opinion the cabinet's decision will bring about the renewal of the momentum replied that the renewal of the momentum did not depend on Israel's answers. If the government had accepted the DMC's proposal, they said, even that would not have been the key to the renewal of the momentum and it would not have changed As-Sadat's stance. According to them, what would have given a "push" to As-Sadat is only if Israel had accepted his extremist positions.

The circles added that the cabinet decision certainly constitutes a positive answer "between us and the United States." In their opinion it enables the continuation of the negotiations through the United States on the question of how to renew the negotiations with Egypt.

GUSH EMUNIM PLANS DEMONSTRATIONS DURING MONDALE VISIT

TA201949Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The Gush Emunim secretariat views with concern and apprehension last Sunday's cabinet decision on the future of Judaea and Samaria, and the answers to the United States on this subject.

Correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that Gush Emunim has decided to stage demonstrations during U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale's visit to Israel. The Greater Israel Movement and the circle of the Herut loyalists will also participate in the demonstrations.

WEIZMAN TALKS OF PREPARING ARMY FOR NEXT WAR

TA191103Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Jun 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Bina Barzel, Arye Zimmuqi and Eytan Haber]

[Excerpts]"Gentlemen, I will go and prepare the army for the next war..."said Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman yesterday on his return to his office in Tel Aviv from the cabinet's weekly session in Jerusalem.

The defense minister added to those around him that from now on he would withdraw from the peace negotiations and deal, first and foremost, with the work of the Defense Ministry and the IDF.

Mr Weizman, who was in a rage yesterday during the cabinet session and after it, was relaxed toward the evening and he answered the many phone calls which flooded his home: "I am in a good mood, don't worry." However, he preserved utter silence and refused to reply to the requests for interviews with which he was flooded by almost all the main communications media in the world. He explained to all those appealing to him that he did not intend to comment on the affair of the formulations in the cabinet and neither did he intend to resign.

During yesterday's session, Weizman said that the cabinet decision was, in his view, leading to a deadend and was also likely to lead to military degeneration.

This morning he told correspondent Arye Zimmuqi: "I will continue in my job as minister of defense and I will see to the strengthening of the IDF."

The following details have been learned about what happened during the cabinet session: When Weizman learned the text of Begin's proposal, which, as far as can be seen, he considered an act of deception against himself, he could not overcome his rage. During the session his rage boiled over so much at one point that he ordered the helicopter brought to the landing pad so he could leave. It was only the intervention of Minister Yosef Burg that prevented him from doing so.

During the debate Weizman burst out several times in expressions of rage. He made his most bitter remarks during the break. Weizman then burst out against the ministers surrounding him in the corridor, using expressions which were defined as unparliamentary. According to one version, Weizman said more or less the following: "For 7 months he (Dayan) has been leading you by the nose, this has been going on and you don't see what you are doing. He said he could not support my proposal because it was not clear enough. Now look at what sort of a proposal he is presenting, how vague it is. His approach will lead to catastrophe."

These remarks by Weizman reached the ears of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and, according to the evidence of ministers, he was embarrassed and said: "What does he want from me," and repeated this several times.

Later when the Begin-Dayan proposals and that of the DMC were put forward for voting, someone said: "One could say there were no opponents."

This remark made Weizman leap from his seat and burst out with: "Who said there were no opponents, let it be written in the minutes that I opposed."

From then on he burst out in a flood of unparliamentary expressions.

Correspondent Arye Zimmuqi reports that Prime Minister Menahem Begin may invite Weizman for a friendly meeting in order to discuss with him yesterday's events and to preserve the friendship between them. It appears, however, that after the cabinet debate yesterday, a personal deadlock between Weizman and Begin has been revealed.

Weizman does not regret having said what he did in accordance with his conscience and he intends to continue to express his political views in the cabinet, the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs and in other forums.

Mr Weizman's confidants claim that the prime minister misled the defense minister. At their meeting on Friday, he asked him about a number of possible changes to the formulation Weizman was proposing as a reply to the United States. The defense minister understood from the discussion that Begin would accept his formulation, with minor changes. The prime minister's spokesman also reported after the meeting that it had been a good meeting "which had a good effect on the future relations."

At the cabinet session Weizman was surprised to discover that the prime minister had not referred to his formulation at all.

Those close to Weizman are saying that, in the decision passed yesterday, the ministers appeased each other and in every sentence of the decision it is possible to find an appeasement gesture toward this or that minister. "The ministers forgot that the struggle is with Egypt and the United States and not between one minister and another."

Dozens of people phoned the defense minister's home until after midnight to express support.

WEIZMAN VISITS TOWNS, SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK

Settlement in Samaria

TA201144Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 20 Jun 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] The minister of defense, his confidants have stressed very many times since Sunday, will concentrate on the work of his ministry from now on.

This morning 'Ezer Weizman visited Qarne Shomron in the center of Samaria. In a talk Minister Weizman held with the settlers, it was mainly security matters which were discussed. At the end of the tour, correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum spoke with Eli (Shahar), one of those attending the meeting with the defense minister. [begin recording]

[Question] What was the purpose of the defense minister's visit to Qarne Shomron?

[Answer] The minister of defense came here on his own initiative. I do not know what his objective was. I do know that while he was here we presented him with several of our security requirements and he agreed to most of them.

[Question] Did the minister refer to the future of the settlement during his visit?

[Answer] Yes. He said that in his own private opinion he believed the settlement should remain. However, he particularly stressed that it was not certain, in view of the dynamics of the policy of the State of Israel, whether this would indeed be the case--taking into account the peace requirements of the State of Israel.

[Question] What promises did the defense minister make on his visit?

[Answer] He only made promises in the sphere of our routine security, to supply our security needs.

[Question] Was the question of this settlement remaining here, in this place, put forward during the talks with the defense minister?

[Answer] Only as I said earlier, that we asked him to let us know about his intentions as to whether the settlement would remain here and, as I said before, he said that he believed the settlement should remain. [end recording]

Greeted in Nabulus

TA201525Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman visited Nabulus this morning and told municipal councilmen that as far as he is concerned, the municipalities in Judaea and Samaria will enjoy maximum independence. 'Ezer Weizman announced that he had given approval to the Nabulus municipality to purchase three generators for the power station in the city. His announcement was greeted with applause. Correspondent Arye Gus says that the generator issue was one of the bones of contention that had made relations between the military government and the municipality difficult.

Replying to a claim by the mayor that the armed forces are behaving ruthlessly, 'Ezer Weizman said that he rejects out of hand any disgraceful action and that he had instructed the troops not to enter schools without an explicit permit by the commander of Judaea and Samaria. He stressed at the same time that he would uphold the right of everyone to visit Nabulus and move about freely there. 'Ezer Weizman added that he would consider favorably the mayor's request to allow the rebuilding of houses that had been pulled down by the security forces.

At the end of the meeting, Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'a said that a new leaf had been turned over in the relations between the municipality and Israel's authorities.

Visit to Hebron

TA201647Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 20 Jun 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria was in Hebron today during Defense Minister Weizman's visit there, and here is his report. [begin recording]

The residents of Hebron bade the defense minister a cordial welcome. He opened his visit in the city by calling on the former mayor, Shaykh Muhammad Ali al-Ja'bari, where he said:

[Weizman] We are two peoples which were destined to live together in this country and we have to find the means, the ways and the methods according to which we shall coexist, and one or another solution toward peace. We are at the moment in the midst of an advance process--albeit full of obstacles--of seeking a solution for both peoples.

[Correspondent] From here, 'Ezer Weizman and his party went to lunch at the Park Hotel with Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi, after which they attended a meeting with the Hebron municipal council. During the meeting, at which municipal issues were discussed, the defense minister responded favorably to a request by the mayor and approved the return of Dr Ahmad (Hamzah al-Natcha) who had been expelled from Hebron about 2 years ago before the elections, in which he was running for the mayoralty on behalf of the PLO supporters. On leaving the municipality building, the defense minister agreed to answer questions by correspondents, but refused to touch on recent developments in the cabinet. The defense minister was asked whether his visit resulted from his statement yesterday that he would devote his time to matters of his ministry.

[Weizman] No. First of all, the visit was planned about a month ago. Unfortunately, I had to postpone it, among other things, because of the trip to England. It is part of my occupation and a part of my duties, and I enjoyed it very much.

[Correspondent] The defense minister denied the rumor that he had discussed Israel's autonomy plan with his hosts.

[Weizman] I was not exactly talking about the autonomy plan, but we talked about how to live together in peace. [end recording]

POST CITES DEFENSE MINISTRY DISINTEREST IN S. LEBANON

TA201111Y Jerusalem POST in English 20 Jun 78 p 8 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] While the nation's military leadership is busy discussing and managing weighty matters of state, it seems to be turning a blind eye to some very strange happenings right across the northern border, in south Lebanon, an area of vital interest to this country.

What is especially disconcerting is that some of the strangest goings-on are directly traceable to those whom Israel has counted its best friends--and even military wards--in Lebanon.

Admittedly there are, or in any case may be, more pressing issues before the minister of defense and the chief of staff at this critical juncture.

Mr Weizman has just emerged, defeated though unbowed, from a major and protracted political battle within the cabinet.

Nevertheless it is somewhat puzzling that so little curiosity is being displayed by the Ministry of Defense in the situation developing in south Lebanon during the very first week after the IDF's pullback from the area.

Public interest here at home has focussed on the steady infiltration of terrorists, so far unarmed, back into the area, with the open tolerance of UNIFIL troops, who have been helping to transport food and equipment to the PLO returnees.

Caustic comment has also been elicited by the abject failure of the Lebanese Government to assert itself, as befitting a sovereign nation, by making its writ run throughout the country, rather than resigning itself to the position of a junior partner of Syria, or the United Nations.

Now, however, it appears that such fragile stability as was left to south Lebanon by the departing Israeli units, is being undermined by none other than Major Sa'd Haddad, the commander of the 3,000-man-strong Christian militias in the south. Trained by Israeli officers, and supplied from Israeli sources, the Haddad forces are undermining Lebanon's central authority, and making a potent contribution to rapprochement between UNIFIL and the PLO.

Two days ago Major Haddad staged a show of being "jailed" by supposedly breakaway "rejectionist" militia officers, who would no longer pay him any fealty. Yesterday these officers declared their "independence" of Beirut. This charade will fool no one.

Meanwhile the major's forces have been making life miserable for the UN troops, preventing them from putting up even symbolic positions on the periphery of the Christian enclaves, and refusing to allow the Norwegian contingent in Fatahland to receive supplies from Metulla.

This has been done in violation of a plain undertaking by the militia commander, and it has caused the UN people to turn to the terrorists for succour.

Clearly it is high time Major Haddad were placed on notice by Israel's military authorities that his wild shenanigans will no longer be tolerated. Israel has a responsibility to help Lebanon and the UN preserve peace and order in that cordon sanitaire produced along the northern border as a result of the Litani operation.

It has an obligation to protect the Christians from the kind of fate the PLO would like to impose on them. But Israel has no obligation to make certain these responsibilities remain in conflict.

TERRORIST INFILTRATION INTO S. LEBANON MOUNTING

TA191300Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[Text] The speed of infiltration of terrorists into southern Lebanon has increased over the last few days and their number south of the Litani has now reached several hundred. The UN Forces are trying to prevent the infiltration, but when they come up against terrorists they do not act forcefully and suffice with negotiations and means of persuasion aimed at making them withdraw.

In the meantime it is reported that the Christian forces in the enclaves are insisting that they will not permit the UN forces to enter their territory. Major Haddad claims that he is obeying the orders of the Sarkis government and those who do not permit the United Nations to enter the enclaves are members of the militias. It is pointed out, however, that Haddad is not opposed to the militia's actions to prevent the entry of the UN forces. Officially, he is obeying the government's orders, but in fact he is not acting against the members of the militias who are part of his forces.

Authorized circles report that if the infiltration of terrorists continues and if the United Nations avoids the use of force, it will not take more than a few years for the number of terrorists in southern Lebanon to reach more than a thousand.

For the moment, they are refraining from entering the villages and are trying to find cover in the territory near the villages. The mild reaction by the United Nations springs, apparently, from a new order received from the UN Secretariat in New York and to which General Erskine, the commander of UNIFIL, raised no objection.

TERRORISTS REBUILDING GROUNDWORK IN S. LEBANON

TA200939Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Jun 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Let us move north to southern Lebanon. The terrorists have been constantly increasing the scope of their penetration into southern Lebanon over the last few days. They are beginning to establish themselves in the territory through threats and heavy pressure on the Shi'ite villages to force them to again cooperate. Our correspondent in the north, Yeheqel Hame'iri, reports:

The terrorists who have succeeded in infiltrating southern Lebanon must, in fact, start again from the beginning. The broad and well-founded groundwork they left behind after their withdrawal in the wake of the IDF invasion was almost completely destroyed. This groundwork, in addition to the fortifications and the large amounts of equipment, also included the system of relations the terrorists had established with many of the area's inhabitants thus gaining their aid. This system was seriously harmed because of the gains the villagers made from the IDF invasion. Now, the terrorists, who have returned to several of their strongholds in southern Lebanon, must first rehabilitate their relations with the inhabitants of the area since without their cooperation, direct or indirect, it is doubtful whether the terrorists will be able to reestablish themselves in the sector.

The terrorists, who number more than 500, are almost all concentrated in the western sector, mainly in the areas of 'Abbasiyah and (?Jouar al-Khane), Shi'ite villages most of whose inhabitants have cooperated with the terrorists in the past. Several dozen terrorists have also returned to the Fatahland area to the villages of [word indistinct] and (Ibil Bashi).

The Shi'ite villagers, as far as is known, do not want to cooperate with the terrorists. At first they rejected them, pointing to the destruction and ruin brought down upon them because of the terrorists' activity in the area. The terrorists, who [word indistinct] of the villagers, who only yesterday had proved their loyalty to them, opened a terror campaign using pressure, threats, shots designed to cause fright and public use of force.

Several villagers, who had been accused by the terrorists of cooperation with the IDF while it was in the area, were taken to an unknown place. The terrorists are threatening to execute them. The terrorists' pressure on the population is increasing as in the past and, as is known, several of the inhabitants, willingly or unwillingly, have again been helping them.

In contrast Shi'ite villagers along the border, which is under the control of the Lebanese militiamen, are continuing to show loyalty to their Maronite neighbors. As long as the militia forces control the area, there is no doubt that the terrorists will gain no hold on these villages.

Meanwhile, the terrorists who had moved to the western and eastern sectors are gathering around the bridges over the Litani under UN control and, in the guise of being civilians, are not acting openly. They are trying to come back and dig in to the territory quietly and, at this stage, to cache arms and ammunition transferred to them through concealed paths, paths which the United Nations has neither the ability nor the power to control.

TELEVISION REPORTS SECRET PLO-UN ACCORD ON S. LEBANON

TA202050Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Our military correspondent has learned that the UN Secretariat and the PLO leadership reached a secret agreement which facilitates a large-scale penetration of terrorists into southern Lebanon. The accord was reached at a meeting held about a month and a half ago in Damascus between Yasir 'Arafat and two deputies of the UN director general for political affairs, (Viere) and (Jonah). General Siilasvuo, UN forces coordinator in the Middle East, was asked not to participate at that meeting. In the wake of that accord an authoritative estimate is being formed that the number of terrorists who are now in southern Lebanon is more than double the number currently mentioned in Israel, and that it has now reached 1,200 terrorists. The following is a report by military correspondent 'Amiram Nir. [begin videotape]

The secret deal apparently was initially made at the political levels of the UN Secretariat, without the knowledge of Siilasvuo or Erskine, the commanders in the field. Very soon, however, the Ghanaian general began receiving instructions from New York, specifying what he is forbidden to do. He and his men are not to fire at or disturb the terrorists penetrating into the south, provided the latter do not enter the villages, but gather in the vicinity of settlements, in orchards and in the wadis. The squads of terrorists who began to populate the area south of the Litani River received clear guidelines from the Fatah command: If UN troops try to expel you from an area which, in your understanding is included in the agreement, namely, it is outside the villages, fire may be opened at the UN forces. So far only one such misunderstanding is known to have occurred with respect to the interpretation of the UN-PLO agreement. In all other instances, the terrorists were allowed to choose their new bases, to prepare for a lengthy stay, to receive assistance in arms and supplies by convoys from the north, and even attempt to create some kind of relationship with the civilian population in the region, which so far was the only element that expressed clear opposition to the return of the terrorists.

From reports by the inhabitants, and by other means, the Government of Lebanon has formed a reliable estimate regarding the number of terrorists now in the area. The estimate was not made public, but it was reported to the United Nations. The Lebanese say that in the region south of the Litani River there are today 1,200 terrorists, or perhaps more, and the number is growing daily, one week after the IDF withdrawal from the area. [end videotape]

In reaction to these reports, senior Israeli observers told our military correspondent that, in light of the agreement, the Lebanese Government's estimate definitely looks reasonable, and that the UN Secretariat reached the agreement with the terrorists probably out of a fear of violent clashes between UNIFIL forces and PLO men. Such clashes, about 2 months ago, generated considerable demoralization among UNIFIL troops, and a number of countries which dispatched troops to the area have already expressed their desire to consider the possibility of recalling their troops.

LEBANESE MILITIAS DEMAND TERRORISTS, SYRIANS LEAVE

TA190930Y Jerusalem POST in English 19 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[By Ron Tal]

[Text] Metulla--The "war council" of the five rightist militias operating in south Lebanon yesterday demanded the withdrawal of Palestinian terrorists from the south and from the entire country, as well as an end to Syrian intervention in south Lebanon.

Also demanded was a reconsideration of last week's announcement by Lebanese Premier Salim al-Huss ordering the two commanders of the Lebanese Army in the south, Majors Sa'd Haddad and Sami Shidyaq to remain in their barracks to enable UNIFIL forces to take over positions in the area.

The demands were made at a press conference held by the militia leaders at the so-called Fatma gate, one of the "good fence" stations near Metulla. The spokesman was Francis Rizak, a teacher from Al-Qulay'ah, who introduced himself as the spokesman for the five separate organizations--the Phalanges, Akhrar, Guards of the Cedars, Heroes of 'Urqub and Young Shi'ites of the Cedar.

Israel Defence Force soldiers and military police opened the gate for the press conference, but did not allow members of the militias or newsmen to cross the border.

According to Rizak, the militias operate under the roof of the all-Lebanese right-wing organization known as the Lebanese Front. They can muster some 6,000 front-line fighters from their ranks in the south, deployed with heavy weapons, from An-Naqurah on the sea to Shuba on the 'Urqub hills. They can also muster another 15,000 volunteers into the fight should the currently besieged UN Interim Force in Lebanon try to enter their areas, the spokesman said. He added that in that case, the UN troops would have to fight from every house and village "until the last drop of blood of the militias is shed."

The "war council" announcement also accused UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and the UN Organization in Lebanon of being the servants of the Palestine Liberation Organization and its chief, Yasir 'Arafat.

Rizak spoke while standing in front of two armoured personnel carriers, a few jeeps and some 40 militia members and commanders, who were armed with machineguns, rocket launchers and small arms. Typical of the insignia of their organizations were a green cedar or a skull crossed with a bone and a sword.

Phalange leader Abu Amil from the area of Rimeish in the western sector of south Lebanon declared the militias will allow UN soldiers to deploy along the Israel-Lebanon border as soon as Syrian troops return to Syria "and the Palestinian terrorists leave Lebanon to build a new homeland in Saudi Arabia."

The press conference broke up suddenly when the armoured personnel carriers were called over the radio to attend to some problem which had developed with a UNIFIL unit in the area of Ibil as-Saqy. The carriers left in a cloud of dust with sirens wailing. A militia fighter fired into the air, which was described as a message for the UN soldiers.

The current tension in the south was triggered by Al-Huss' order for Haddad and Shidyaq to stay in their barracks in Marj 'Uyun and 'Ayn Ibil. Soldiers of the Lebanese Army are now sitting in their camps while their positions are manned by the militias. Units of UNIFIL Commander Gen Emmanuel Erskine remained under siege for the fourth day yesterday.

TERRORIST INFILTRATION OF JORDAN INCREASES

TA201429Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Jun 78 p 8 TA

[By Semadar Peri]

[Text] The rate of infiltration of terrorists from Lebanon--who arrived in Jordan via Syria and from there into Israel--in order to carry out terrorist acts has increased over the last few days.

This is evidenced by the terrorist squad which at the end of last week infiltrated into the settlement of Mehulla. It has been found that these terrorists infiltrated into Jordan through Syria. One of the terrorists leaders, Abu Iyad, has already said on this issue that his men will act against Israel from Damascus, Beirut and Amman.

It should be stated that the Syrian help in passage into Jordanian territory was given to the terrorists' squads only on condition that they insure that terrorist acts will be carried out only against Israel and not against the inhabitants or Jordan or the royal family.

The more the infiltration of "Lebanese" terrorists increases, the more Husayn becomes entangled in a delicate situation: The king of Jordan is at present not interested in again acting against the terrorists, as he did in September 1970. He even tries to overlook the terrorist infiltration since, inasmuch as he claims to be the sole representative of the Palestinians, he cannot come out in a drastic operation against them.

Nevertheless, Husayn is aware of the fact that if the terrorists continue to operate within Israel's territory, the IDF will react quickly inside Jordanian territory. In this situation, it may be estimated that despite all the control measures and the knowledge of what is going on, the Jordanians are incapable of either stopping or preventing the infiltration of the terrorists into their areas.

Syrian help in transferring the soldiers to Jordanian territory seems to contradict the close ties and the plans for military and cultural coordination between the two countries. The ties and plans for getting closer made approximately 2 years ago have been frozen since the Syrian intervention in Lebanon reached its peak.

It seems that the Syrians are helping the terrorist squads to infiltrate into Jordan as a solution to a problem they have in their relationship. After the Litani operation and with the withdrawal of the IDF from southern Lebanon the rate of terrorist infiltration into the southern Lebanon has indeed increased. It is estimated that the number of terrorists who have so far managed to infiltrate into the southern area is over 500.

The Syrians are not satisfied merely with helping the terrorists who infiltrate into southern Lebanon. They now want to get rid of the image that has been created concerning them, that they are accomplices, by virtue of some secret agreement, to preventing the terrorists from infiltrating into the southern area and to actions to prevent their activity in Israeli territory.

It appears that by helping the terrorists to penetrate into Jordanian territory, in order to enable them to carry out terrorist acts against Israel, the Syrians hope to achieve two goals:

--To create tension in Amman concerning a possible intervention by the IDF, tension which will prompt King Husayn to take steps against the terrorists, and thereby rob him of the possibility of claiming that Jordan is the representative of the Palestinians;

--To solve the problem of the terrorists, many of whom are currently sitting idle in Lebanon and who thus constitute an unstable element which might create new problems in Lebanon, problems which Damascus would not look on with a favorable eye.

BAN ON ISRAELI CITIZENS BUYING W. BANK LAND CONTINUES

TA201113Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Jun 78 p 2 TA

[By Dani Rubinstein]

[Text] The military government in Judaea and Samaria is continuing the ban on Israelis buying land in Judaea and Samaria.

Recently lawyer Drori from Jerusalem submitted an appeal to register in the holding books, for an Israeli citizen, a tract of land bought by him north of Jerusalem. The military government replied in the negative. The reference was to a power of attorney over land west of Nabi-Samu'il.

The military government authorizes the purchase of land from Arabs only for Israeli public elements, in accordance with the cabinet decision made about 5 years ago. Moshe Dayan then headed those demanding that private citizens in Israel should be able to buy land in territories and the demand was supported emphatically by the Likud, which was then in the opposition. The military government at that time authorized only a small number of Israeli citizens to buy certain tracts of land and the criticism at the time claimed that this could lead to speculative deals in this sensitive issue.

It appears that since the new cabinet came into being the military government has continued its policy of banning private citizens in Israel from buying lands in the territories.

AIR FORCE TO BUY MORE KFIRS THAN PLANNED

TA210730Y Jerusalem POST in English 21 Jun 78 p 2 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] The Israel Air Force has increased the number of Kfir C-2 fighters that it originally intended to purchase from the Israel Aircraft Industries.

The move is related to both the air force's tactical needs and the inability of the IAI to sell the plane abroad due to American refusal to allow Israel to re-export the aircraft's engine.

The IAF order has meant that the IAI's production line has continued to produce at planned levels--despite the realization that the plane will, in all probablity, serve with no other air force. Two of three potential clients for the plane, Austria and Ecuador, are both now out of the picture (for different reasons), while hope is rapidly fading that the U.S. will allow the plane to be sold to Taiwan.

The move has also had positive implications for the IAF as well, allowing for the replacement and phasing out of older aircraft. The Kfir's adaptability has allowed it to be deployed in various roles.

Meanwhile, AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY reported on Monday that the U.S. has told Israel that it may not market the Kfir to any nation in South America. Officials in Israel said that the report was both correct and incorrect: The U.S. has indeed informed Israel that it may not sell the plane to Ecuador (a decision made over a year ago which led to the cancellation of an order for 24 planes), but Ecuador is the only country with which Israel has negotiated in South America.

SPOKESMAN QUESTIONED ON RAZTAKHIZ RESIGNATIONS

LD191538Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] The cabinet met this morning under Prime Minister Amuzegar. After the session the government spokesman, Mr Homayun, answered questions put to him by reporters. In reply to a question on the government's reaction to the recent developments in the Majlis, he said: The Rastakhiz Party is a voluntary organization in which no one is compelled to seek membership at any time. Moreover, no one is forced to remain a member once he joins the party. Consequently, if certain individuals have decided to cease their activities within the party or to leave it, this is something which is entirely up to them, and the party has no intention of reaching any decision in the case of these people as Iranian citizens. As for the government, it is quite impartial in this respect, for it has nothing to do with it.

The real strength of the party lies in the fact that it does not urge anybody to join. The individuals involved were nominated and then elected by the people. This right to be a member of the Majlis cannot be taken away from anyone, unless it is covered under the law and only under certain circumstances, and these do not apply to the present situation. As for their membership in the party, this is entirely up to them.

OFFICIALS RECEIVE HEAD OF SOVIET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LD200118Y Teheran PARS in English 1031 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, 18 June, PANA (PARS News Agency)--Boris Borisov, the head of the Soviet Union's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, met his Iranian counterpart Taher Zia'i today. The meeting was also attended by the Soviet commercial attache in Iran, Viktor Slovtsiv, the head of the Iranian National Industrial Group, Rahim [name indistinct] Iravani, and the head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines. Irano-Soviet trade relations and ways to extend them were discussed.

Participants at the meeting said that the newly-inaugurated Irano-Soviet Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines would play an important role in the expansion of trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

BRIEFS

NEW IRANIAN AMBASSADORS--During an audience with the shah at Niavaran Palace today, Foreign Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari introduced Parviz 'Adl, Parvin Sepahbodi, Shoja'oddin Shafa and Abbas Malekmadani as the new Iranian ambassadors to Brazil, Greece, Italy and the Ivory Coast, respectively. [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD]

BURMESE AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED--Teheran, PANA (Pars News Agency)--The Iranian Government announced its approval of the appointment of U Tin as the accredited ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Burma to the Imperial Court of Iran, on Thursday. [Text] [Teheran PARS in English 1013 GMT 8 Jun 78 LD]

AFGHANISTAN

TARAKI COMMENTS ON NEIGHBORS' POLICIES

BK210328Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0303 GMT 21 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, June 21 (AFP)--President Nur Mohammad Taraki of Afghanistan has asked neighbouring countries to avoid "interference" with the internal affairs of his country, Radio Kabul reported today.

According to the radio, President Taraki criticized "concern" in neighbouring countries about the April 27 revolution that overthrew the Nadir dynasty in Afghanistan. Speaking to delegations in Kabul, Taraki said it will be better if neighbours "look after their own affairs and do not interfere in our internal affairs." The radio quoted Taraki as saying that some countries were jittery about the "people's revolution" in Afghanistan.

Pakistani leaders had stated after the coup that Pakistan regarded the change of government in Afghanistan as an internal affair of that country. Pakistan was first among the Moslem countries to recognize the new regime of Afghanistan.

INDIA

THAI FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT ARRIVES 20 JUNE

BK210915Y Delhi ISI in English 0832 GMT 21 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Thai Foreign Minister Doctor Uppadit Pachariyangkun arrived in New Delhi on the night of June 20 to sign a bilateral seabed boundary agreement with India and a tri-junction agreement also including Indonesia.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the visiting minister said that during his 4-day visit he would also exchange views with Indian leaders to expand trade between the two countries "We have to explore possibilities to increase trade to mutual benefit," he said.

DESAI MEETS WITH THAI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SUNTHON

BK191001Y Delhi ISI in English 0855 GMT 19 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Visiting Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Sunthon Hongladarom had a meeting with Prime Minister Morarji Desai on the evening of June 17, reports PTI. Their meeting lasted half an hour. Sunthon Hongladarom also paid a courtesy call on President Sanjiva Reddy.

AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION LEADER HAYDEN ARRIVES 18 JUNE

BK191005Y Delhi ISI in English 0856 GMT 19 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Bill Hayden leader of opposition in the Australian Parliament arrived in New Delhi on June 18 on an 11-day official visit to India, reports PTI.

During his stay in the capital, Hayden will call on Prime Minister Morarji Desai, other central ministers and the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Holds Press Conference

BK201614Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The leader of the opposition in the Australian Parliament, Mr Bill Hayden, has said that India, Japan and Australia could play an important role, particularly in the field of disarmament and international peace. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, Mr Hayden, a Labor Party leader, said the Indian role in the socioeconomic development of the region and its approach to international issues figured prominently in his hour-long meeting with the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai.

He agreed with Mr Desai that the Indian Ocean should be maintained as a zone of peace to eliminate superpower rivalry.

INDONESIA'S MOCHTAR ARRIVES FOR SEABED TREATY SIGNING

BK200935Y Delhi ISI in English 0834 GMT 20 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Doctor Mochtar Kusumaatmadja on June 19 said the trijunction agreement to be signed by his country, India and Thailand on Thursday (June 22) was very important, as it concluded the exercise in settling the seabed boundary, reports PTI.

Talking to newsmen at the airport on his arrival in New Delhi on a 5-day visit, he said it was difficult enough to settle one seabed boundary. "Here you have an agreement which finalises settlement of three seabed boundaries by establishing a trijunction point."

The visiting minister was received at the airport by Minister of State for External Affairs Somrendra Kundu.

NEPAL

FORMER TRANSPORT MINISTER SINGH RELEASED FROM DETENTION

BK191525Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1205 GMT 19 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Kathmandu, June 19 (AFP)--Mr Ganesh Man Singh, 62, cabinet colleague of deposed Premier B.P. Koirala, was released last night on medical parole to enable him to go outside Nepal for treatment.

Mr Singh, the transport and public works minister of Mr Koirala's first elected government, is suffering from prostate gland and kidney ailments.

The Nepalese Government, acting on the basis of the medical report of physicians attending Mr Singh, recommended to King Birendra his release on medical parole. King Birendra accepted the recommendation.

Mr Singh, who was under detention for the past 17 months, was acquitted by a one-man special tribunal of the Okhaldhunga arms raid case last February, but he remained under detention waiting for the approval of the Central Regional Court.

Mr Singh was arrested on December 30 in 1976 soon after his return to Kathmandu along with Mr Koirala, after spending nearly eight years in self-imposed exile in India.

The Nepalese Government has appealed to the Central Regional Court against the verdict of the special tribunal, and hearings will begin on June 25.

PAKISTAN

KENG PIAO SPEAKS AT KARACHI CIVIC RECEPTION 20 JUNE

BK201646Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Chinese Vice Premier Keng Piao has declared that the Chinese Government and people will continue their wholehearted support for the Pakistani Government and people in their just struggle against external aggression and threats and in defense of their national independence and sovereignty. He was addressing a civic reception held in his honor in Karachi this afternoon. He said that China also fully supports Pakistan's efforts to win the right of self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr Keng Piao said that the Pakistani Government and people have made untiring efforts and scored brilliant successes in the past few years in the defense and construction of their country. He said the Chinese people have always considered these successes as their own and sincerely desire that Pakistan be a united, strong and prosperous nation.

Referring to the excellent friendship between China and Pakistan, he recalled that such friendly relations existed nearly 2,000 years ago between [words indistinct]. Chinese scholars [words indistinct] crossed difficult mountains and rivers [words indistinct] came to this country. Their feats are part of the traditional friendship between the two countries. In the recent past, the people of both countries have given encouragement to and have sympathized with each other in their respective struggles against colonialism and for national liberation. Forty years ago, Pakistan's noted Poet Mohammad Iqbal wrote poems vividly depicting the friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

Mr Keng Piao said that the people of China and Pakistan today are tackling the common tasks of opposing imperialism and hegemony, safeguarding national independence and building their respective countries. There has been a steady growth in the friendship and amicable cooperation between the two countries, and the Chinese people will continue their untiring efforts to further consolidate and strengthen these relations.

The Chinese vice premier said that the international situation is turning in favor of the people and against hegemony. He said that the struggle of the Third World against hegemony is a force rapidly gaining strength. He said that the future of the world is very bright. Expressing China's solidarity with Third World countries, he said China will never seek to gain hegemony or adopt a superpower attitude.

Referring to the improvement in relations among the countries of South Asia, Mr Keng Piao said that this is in the interest of the people of the region, as it will help the stability and development of the area. He said that China is confident that the struggle waged by the South Asian peoples against external intervention and aggression and in defense of their national independence and freedom will surely succeed as long as the people of the region remain completely united and maintain and strengthen their unity.

Referring to China's achievements in various fields, the Chinese vice premier said that the people of China firmly believe that they can make their country a strong, modern socialist state before the end of this century. As a developing country, China will always wholeheartedly support the countries of the Third World.

Mr Keng Piao thanked the citizens of Karachi for their hospitality and friendly welcome and for the grand reception held in his honor.

Earlier, welcoming the distinguished visitor, the administrator of the Karachi Municipal Corporation referred to the close and firm friendly ties between Pakistan and China. He said that the people of Pakistan have great love and respect for their Chinese brethren, as China has always supported us normally and materially in difficult times. He also thanked China for its consistent (?solidarity with us). He paid deep homage to China's great leader, Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and passed on warm greetings to Chairman Hua Kuo-feng. He said the [words indistinct] of the Chinese leaders is an example for developing countries. The administrator of the Karachi Municipal Corporation also presented a (?gift) on behalf of the citizens. The Chinese delegation presented a flower vase to the citizens of Karachi. The acting Sind governor is holding a banquet for the members of the Chinese delegation this evening.

Feted in Karachi

BK210813Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 21 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Speaking at a dinner hosted by the acting Sind governor in his honor last night, the Chinese vice premier has said that the people of Pakistan should rest assured that China is their dependable and sincere friend. Mr Keng Piao said China would also continue to give technical and economic assistance to Pakistan. He announced that China will place orders for new ships with the Karachi shipyard.

Earlier, the acting governor of Sind praised the people and the Government of China for the their sustained support and assistance to Pakistan.

Earlier during the day the Chinese vice premier, accompanied by the chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, visited the naval dockyard and watched a (?skimpast) of the naval units. A flypast was also held. Later he attended a luncheon given in his honor by the chief of the naval staff.

Speaking on the occasion, Admiral Mohammad Sharif said that the brief demonstration of coastal units of the Pakistan Navy was a visible symbol of the abiding friendship between Pakistan and China as these ships and craft had been built for Pakistan by China. In his reply, the Chinese vice premier paid tribute to the valiant fighters of the Pakistan Navy who, he said, were determined to defend their country.

Ends Visit

BK210815Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 21 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Keng Piao, was given a warm sendoff on his departure from Karachi at the end of his 6-day visit to Pakistan. The chief of army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, bade him farewell at the airport.

Among those present at the airport to see him off were Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Committee Gen Mohammad Sharif, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Mohammad Sharif, Acting Governor of Sind Mr Justice Abdul Qadir Sheikh and Sind Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan.

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